

Oil wells 'could burn for 9 months'

EC Gulf unity threatened by French mission

By PHILIP JACOBSON, MICHAEL KNIPE AND MICHAEL MCCARTHY

THE last-minute rush to the Gulf negotiating table accelerated last night with the revelation that a special French envoy had flown to Baghdad.

The mission called into question the French government's commitment to a united diplomatic front against Saddam Hussein, with a background of continuing disagreement within the European Community. EC foreign ministers meet tomorrow to discuss the dispatch of its own team to Iraq.

The full effect of a war in the Gulf was graphically illustrated at a conference in London on its environmental effects which heard that up to 400 of Kuwait's oil wells could be set on fire and might burn for up to nine months.

Although Michel Vauzelle, the French envoy, insisted he had "no message, no mission and no mandate" in seeking talks with Iraqi officials, he was received by M. Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace before leaving Paris. As head of the National Assembly's foreign affairs commission, M. Vauzelle, once official spokesman at the Elysee, is well

placed to grasp the implications of undertaking a solo mission barely two weeks before the United Nations ultimatum expires.

The Foreign Office in London asserted that pressure to stop an EC mission to Baghdad will most probably prevail at the meeting of Community foreign ministers while the Germans insisted that further direct contacts with Iraq were essential.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has spoken by telephone to six of his senior counterparts among the 12. Sources in Whitehall say they are satisfied that only a minority of the 12 would favour sending a senior figure to Baghdad. Sources maintain that the predominant view among the 12 is that such an initiative would be too dramatic and would lend itself to exploitation by President Saddam.

The British, however, now accept that it is almost certain that there will be some kind of formal contact with Iraq. It is not yet clear what form such a contact would take or what the venue would be but British officials would prefer it to be in the form of an invitation to Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, to visit the Community.

In spite of the apparent enthusiasm from France, Germany and Luxembourg for a European initiative in mounting direct talks with Baghdad, the sources maintained that there was a general disposition on the part of all foreign ministers not to leap to conclusions before the matter is discussed tomorrow. If agreement to make contact is reached tomorrow, it will still have to be resolved how and where that should be done and who would do the talking. These possibilities include the Iraqi foreign minister seeing the European Community president, all 12 or a troika of past, present and future presidents.

The diplomatic developments came as the British government called for Gulf volunteers from its 2,500 naval reservists. British armoured units moved closer to the Kuwaiti border and Nato agreed to send 40 fight-

ers to Turkey to shore up the Ankara government against possible Iraqi threats in the first Gulf military move by the treaty organization. The aircraft will be drawn from Italy, Germany and Belgium.

At the environmental conference, Basil Butler, managing director of BP, who spent 13 years in Kuwait and was chief petroleum engineer of the Kuwait Oil Company, said his own estimate was that if 300 to 400 of Kuwait's 850 oil wells were set on fire, it might take six to nine months to put them out.

M. Vauzelle has excellent contacts in the Middle East and has recently met officials from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Syria and Iran. He has also been to Tunis for talks with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, about the Gulf situation. "In the light of those contacts, it would have been inexcusable to refuse to meet the Iraqis," he said yesterday.

Given the underlying ambiguity of French policy since the Gulf situation first erupted - characterised by a Western diplomat in Paris as "the Elysee two-step, one move towards solidarity, then another swiftly back" - there will be understandable interest in who M. Vauzelle gets to see in Baghdad. Should President Saddam himself agree to a meeting, speculation that Iraq still sees France, once its closest friend in Europe, as the weak link in the alliance would inevitably be revived.

□ The Labour leadership made plain last night that there were limits to its bipartisan approach to the Gulf confrontation and warned the government against using it as an alibi for the recession (Philip Webster writes). The day after the Chancellor of the Exchequer raised the prospect of a prolonged Gulf war leading to tax increases and public spending cuts, Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said the Tories would not be allowed to "wriggle out" of responsibility for the slump.

Pull-out expected, page 7
Finding a balance, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Police seek wider breath-test powers

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CALLS for the police to be given wider powers to tackle drink-driving were renewed last night in spite of statistics showing a marked drop in the number of motorists failing breath-tests over the Christmas holiday period.

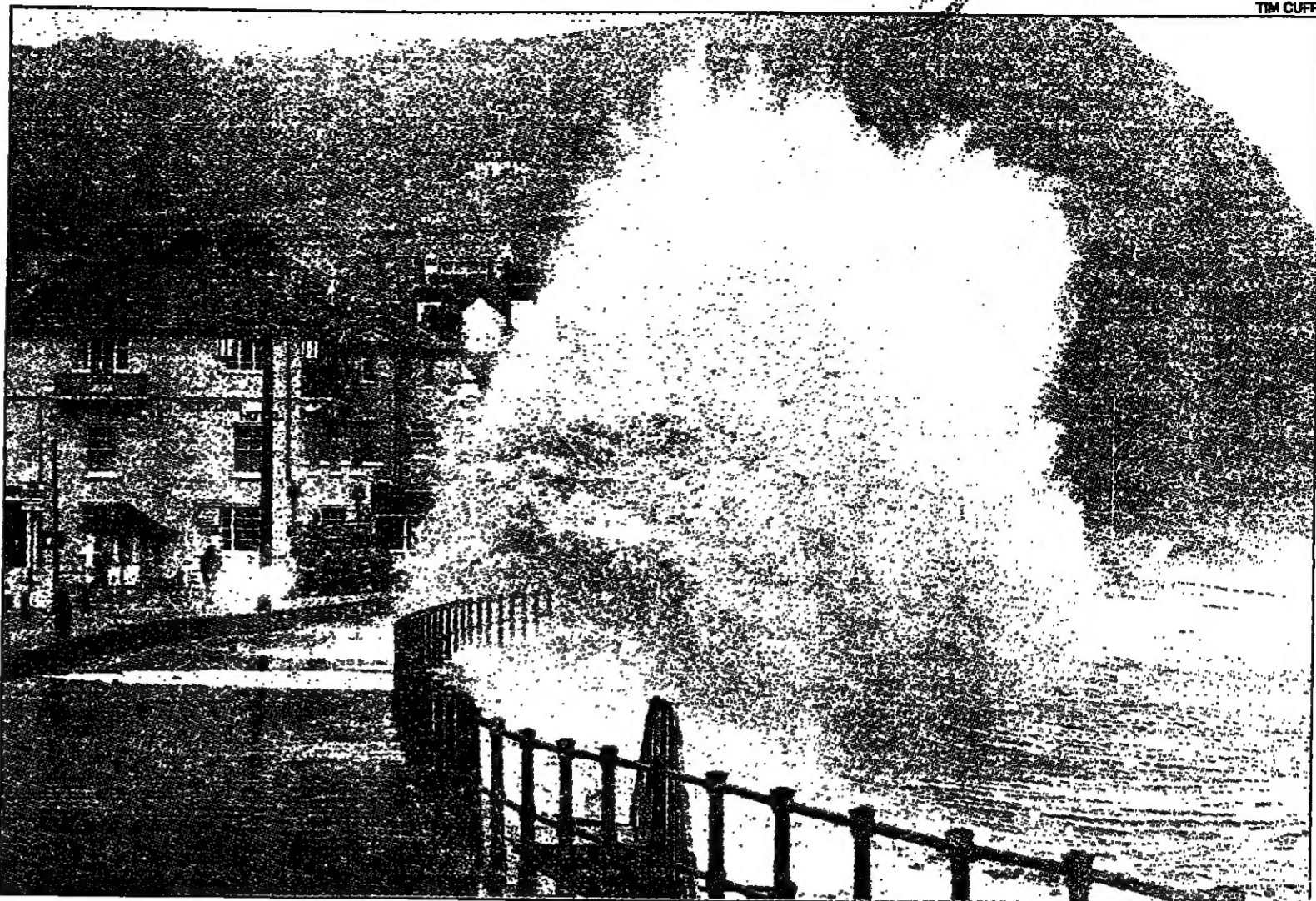
Police were delighted because, even though more tests were administered, the statistics indicated a decline in the number, as well as proportion, of arrests for drink-driving.

Between December 19 and January 1, police in England and Wales tested 78,783 drivers, nearly 15 per cent more than during the 1989 Christmas campaign. Of those tested, 5,294, or 6.7 per cent, were found to be over the limit. Over the same period in the year before, 5,910, or

8.6 per cent, of drivers failed tests. Police and other campaigners against drink-driving said the statistics, continuing a trend which began in the early 1980s, proved that tougher law enforcement worked.

They urged the government to move against the remaining hard core of road users who still refused to obey the law by giving police unfettered powers to breath-test drivers. The figures were published as Dennis Waterman, the television and film actor, was banned from driving for three years and fined £250 after being convicted of his second drink-driving offence in less than four years.

Arrests fall, page 3
Actor banned, page 3
Leading article, page 11



Sad tidings: ferocious seas, boosted by a combination of high tides and fierce storms, pound Sidmouth, in south Devon, forcing closure of some roads

Soviet prices may rise by 70%

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRICES of almost all goods, including basic foodstuffs, could rise by from 50 to 70 per cent in the Soviet Union in the first six months of this year. Anatoli Komin, the head of the state committee on prices, told *Pravda* yesterday that retail prices had so far been artificially held down by state subsidies, but that sharp increases in wholesale prices agreed for this year could not be absorbed by the state budget.

Alcohol is one of the few commodities to be exempt from the price rises and, in a return to the policies of the pre-Gorbachev years, Mr Komin said he favoured an increase in vodka production of up to 40 per cent this year. Profits from vodka sales were used to subsidise other sectors in the Brezhnev era.

Mr Komin said that, for prices of food and consumer goods to remain at their present levels, central subsidies would have to be increased by up to 55 per cent this year. The subsidies mean that most goods cost more to produce than to buy.

However necessary the rises may be in economic terms, Soviet consumers are unlikely to greet them with equanimity. Six months ago the Soviet government cancelled price rises similar to those now proposed, after the announcement precipitated a wave of protests and panic buying. In mid-November a government decision to switch to a system of negotiated prices for "non-essentials" was rejected by eight of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, leaving the policy of centrally fixed prices in confusion.

Mr Komin said that the increases could be implemented in two ways: either all prices could be freed from state control, or limited rises could be introduced and controlled centrally. The first option, he said, was out of the question because it would lead to soaring inflation. But the second possibility would require the agreement of all the republics.

Dead horse, page 8

Councils offer to swap independence for cash

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE local government leaders are to make an unprecedented offer to surrender much of their independence in return for guarantees of stable funding from central government.

A plan that has already been informally presented to ministers would allow the parliamentary Treasury select committee to summon local government leaders to explain why they have exceeded government spending limits.

In return, councils would be guaranteed a percentage share of the revenue raised by income tax, VAT and corporation tax and their spending targets would be set by an independent body rather than by ministers. The proposals have been devised by leaders of the Tory-controlled Association of District Councils (ADC) for submission to the poll tax review being conducted by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.

The association's leaders also want the existing system of local revenue raising replaced by a mixture of a property tax and a much reduced poll tax. Under their scheme, rateable values would be based on house prices, updated each time a property was sold. A residence tax of between £60 and £70 a head would be levied through a designated head of household. Assessments of the amount each council would need to spend to provide a standard level of service would be made by an independent body. In deprived areas ministers could pay extra grant, and the assessments could be used as spending targets.

The association is the biggest local government organisation in Britain, representing 331 district councils in England and Wales. Labour and Liberal Democrat leaders on the association are understood to have given their outline approval to the proposals, but the plan is certain to meet opposition from other local authority groups.

Sir Jack Layden, chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "This scheme represents a negation of the principle of local gov-

Alarm over drinking water pesticide level

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY and MICHAEL HORNSBY

A PESTICIDE has been found for the first time in drinking water in an amount exceeding the government's own health guidance level, it was disclosed yesterday.

The herbicide Atrazine, widely used by local authorities for controlling weeds along railway lines, has been found at the warning level in drinking water by the government's own Drinking Water Inspectorate, set up a year ago. The guidance level of 4 micrograms per litre implies a concentration 40 times greater than the official European Community Standard.

Michael Healy, head of the inspectorate, said the sample was being checked to make sure it was not an analytical quirk. If it proved true the inspectorate would take immediate action with the water company concerned, he said.

In the last year the inspectorate has asked 12 water companies to take action to control pesticide levels in their water, he said. In all cases the advice had been sought from the government's chief medical officer, and there was at present thought to be no danger to health, although the situation was "worrying".

Flood alert as more gales loom

By DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

HIGH winds and heavy rains brought flood warnings in many areas yesterday and the London Weather Centre predicted a further battering particularly in the south, as a deepening Atlantic depression moves towards Britain. Wales and England will bear the brunt.

Meanwhile, the Association of British Insurers has said that domestic premiums could rise by an average of £70 after recent wind damage.

Flood warnings were issued in Shropshire as rain in the Welsh hills began to find its way into the rivers Severn and Vymwy, affecting areas from the Welsh border through Shropshire to Buildwas near Telford.

Gale-force winds continued to sweep along the Bristol Channel restricting traffic to 30mph on the Severn Bridge. Overnight rain closed roads in Gwent, including the A4042 between Abergavenny and Pontypool. Floodwater also affected roads around Usk. The A487 was under water at Dovey Bridge near Machynlleth. Powys, and police on

Continued on page 18, col 1

Families '£50 worse off'

The Labour leadership alleged yesterday that families had become up to £50 a week worse off over the past year.

Gordon Brown, trade and industry spokesman, said that 500 businesses were collapsing each week through the "avoidable Downing Street-induced recession". Page 18

Wilson apology



A.N. Wilson, the journalist, (left), has apologised to Lord Denning (right) over an article published in *The Spectator* last year in which the former Master of the Rolls appeared to indicate that he believed that the Guildford Four were guilty. Page 3

Crufts centenary

Crufts, the world's most influential dog show, celebrates its centenary next week. Once, to compete was enough; now winning is the thing. Page 5

Brown on Jarman

Derek Jarman's new film *The Garden* is British cinema "of astonishing beauty and elegance" says Geoff Brown, who will be reviewing films each week starting today. Page 15

Rugby switch

John Gallagher, the former New Zealand full-back who plays rugby league for Leeds, has decided to pursue an international career with Great Britain. He qualifies through parentage. Page 32

Boat show guide

Today *The Times* marks the opening of the London international boat show with a 20-page colour supplement which covers all aspects of boating from canal holidays to adventure sailing. Photograph, page 3

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A dark horse to rule the world of black holes

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN has a new Astronomer Royal, appointed yesterday to fill an office whose grand title conceals an almost total absence of responsibilities or rewards. He is Arnold Wolfendale, a name well-known to astronomers, for he holds the purse strings at which they are constantly tugging. As chairman of the Astronomy and Planetary Science Board of the Science and Engineering Research Council, he is the man responsible for awarding or denying research grants. It cannot be said, however, that Professor Wolfendale's name is as well-known to the general public, for whom Patrick Moore remains the only astronomer to whom most people could put a name.

The role of Astronomer Royal is roughly the scientific equivalent of the Poet Laureate, without the obligation to

perform on demand. Professor Wolfendale will not be expected to discover a new star to mark a royal birth, for which he may be grateful. Most modern Astronomers Royal do take the job seriously, though, seeing it as an opportunity to propagandise for their subject by giving talks and lectures. On the credit side, the job carries a knighthood.

Professor Wolfendale is not the kind of astronomer who looks through telescopes. He is, in fact, a physicist who, joined the physics department at Durham university as a lecturer 35 years ago, coincidentally on the same day as he was appointed Astronomer Royal. He is 63, married with twin sons and five grandchildren, and has been professor of physics at Durham since 1965. He was not the favourite for the job, although few astronomers seem even to have been

aware that it was available. Professor Wolfendale's predecessor, Francis Graham-Smith, had formally put the office in the hands of the prime minister when he retired from his university post last September. This left the astronomical community in the position of celebrating Astronomy Week, which was held in November, without a titular head.

Professor Wolfendale, only the 14th Astronomer Royal since Sir John Flamsteed in the second half of the 17th century, was one of a joint British, Indian and Japanese team that discovered that the Sun's rays contain particles called neutrinos, weightless, chargeless and virtually undetectable objects that can pass right through the Earth without so much as stirring a blade of grass. A man who can help to find such an exotic particle seems well cast in such an ancient and eccentric post.

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Taylor appeals to Cheltenham faithful in party newspaper



Taylor: give and take needed from all sides

By NICHOLAS WOOD
AND PETER VICTOR

THE Conservative leadership yesterday underlined its support for John Taylor, the embattled black Tory candidate for Cheltenham, by giving him a prominent position in the party newspaper to set out his views on race relations.

The latest endorsement came as rebel local activists prepared to reopen the disputed selection procedure, which ended in Mr Taylor's nomination some five weeks ago. Their petition, which is intended to pave the way for other candidates to challenge Mr Taylor, is due to be presented to officers of the Cheltenham association by next Tuesday. John Major and Chris Patten, the Tory

party chairman, have both strongly backed Mr Taylor, whose article in *Newline* was a clear signal to the Cheltenham faithful to draw back from the brink. His piece ran to nearly half a page, which he shared with Tony Newton, the social security secretary.

Tory strategists are aware that if Mr Taylor were ousted, the prime minister's vision of an "opportunity society" would be clouded and the party's credentials on racial equality would be damaged. Those campaigning seeking a re-run of the selection meeting, with a choice of candidates including Cheltenham residents, have now collected 120 signatures.

Bob Williams, a visiting company director co-ordinating the campaign, said the association would have to give in to

demands for a re-opening of the selection meeting. "We have 120 names, more than voted for John Taylor. We speak for the members of the association who didn't get to vote at the selection meeting."

He said that many members had been reluctant to sign the petition. "They didn't want to put their heads above the parapet, but a lot have told me that if there is another selection meeting they will vote against John Taylor."

"It's not because he's black. He's obviously a well qualified candidate. Basically, we want a Cheltenham man. There was no choice at the meeting. John Taylor has been planted here. He knows nothing about the problems of the town. Being a barrister, how much is he going to do for us?"

He accepted that Mr Taylor had been put forward as the sole candidate in accordance with party rules, as he had gained more than 50 per cent of the vote of the selection committee. "The rules state, however, that it is strongly recommended that a choice of at least two candidates be put forward. If they'd done that they'd have no hassle now."

Monica Drinkwater, the association chairman, said yesterday that she would consider resignation if the rebels continue to press the issue. "It would, in effect, be a vote of no confidence in the officers and executive of the association. I would not be able to continue as chairman and I believe that would be the position of a great many of my officers and executive."

She said the selection process would have to start again from scratch. "They have been told there are no local candidates available for selection. They can't have a re-run of the selection meeting."

"I do not think a lot of these people have thought through the ramifications. The officers, executive and I have behaved absolutely properly and now our integrity is being questioned."

Mr Taylor has avoided being drawn into a slanging match with his critics, but yesterday he hinted at the pressure he is under. He called for magnanimity on the part of the rebels. "If Britain is to be a success for all, it surely needs give and take from all sides. My recent experiences as the Conservative prospective candidate in Cheltenham have emphasised that."

Democrats promote clear party identity in draft manifesto

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrat leadership has drawn up a preliminary election manifesto designed to mark out a clear identity for the party and show voters that it offers an alternative to what it sees as the increasingly similar policies of the government and Labour.

The 6,000 word document, from which the official manifesto will be drawn when a general election is called, marks an important break with the past and the traditional association of the party and its predecessors with the centre ground of politics.

The Democrats intend to use the launch of the document within

the next few weeks to make the assertion that the electorate's choice will be between the cautious recipe offered by Labour and the Tories, and what they say is their own imaginative and reformist approach. The document is expected to commit the party to clear stands on many key areas: a strategy that senior party insiders admit means risking unpopularity on some issues as it buries its "all-things-to-all-men" image.

The party has already mapped out distinct policy stances on Europe and electoral reform. The new "pre-manifesto" is expected

to make similar stands on social, economic and industrial policy areas.

The document was drawn up under Lord Holme of Cheltenham, a key personal adviser to Paddy Ashdown, the party leader. Final drafting has taken place over Christmas, after general approval of the proposals by the policy committees last month. There has been close consultation throughout with the general election planning team.

The decision to aim for a distinctive appeal is based on private research indicating that the party is now building up a core identity among voters or people who take part in opinion polls. Strategists say that one of the difficulties of the old Alliance was its failure to build up a solid base of support.

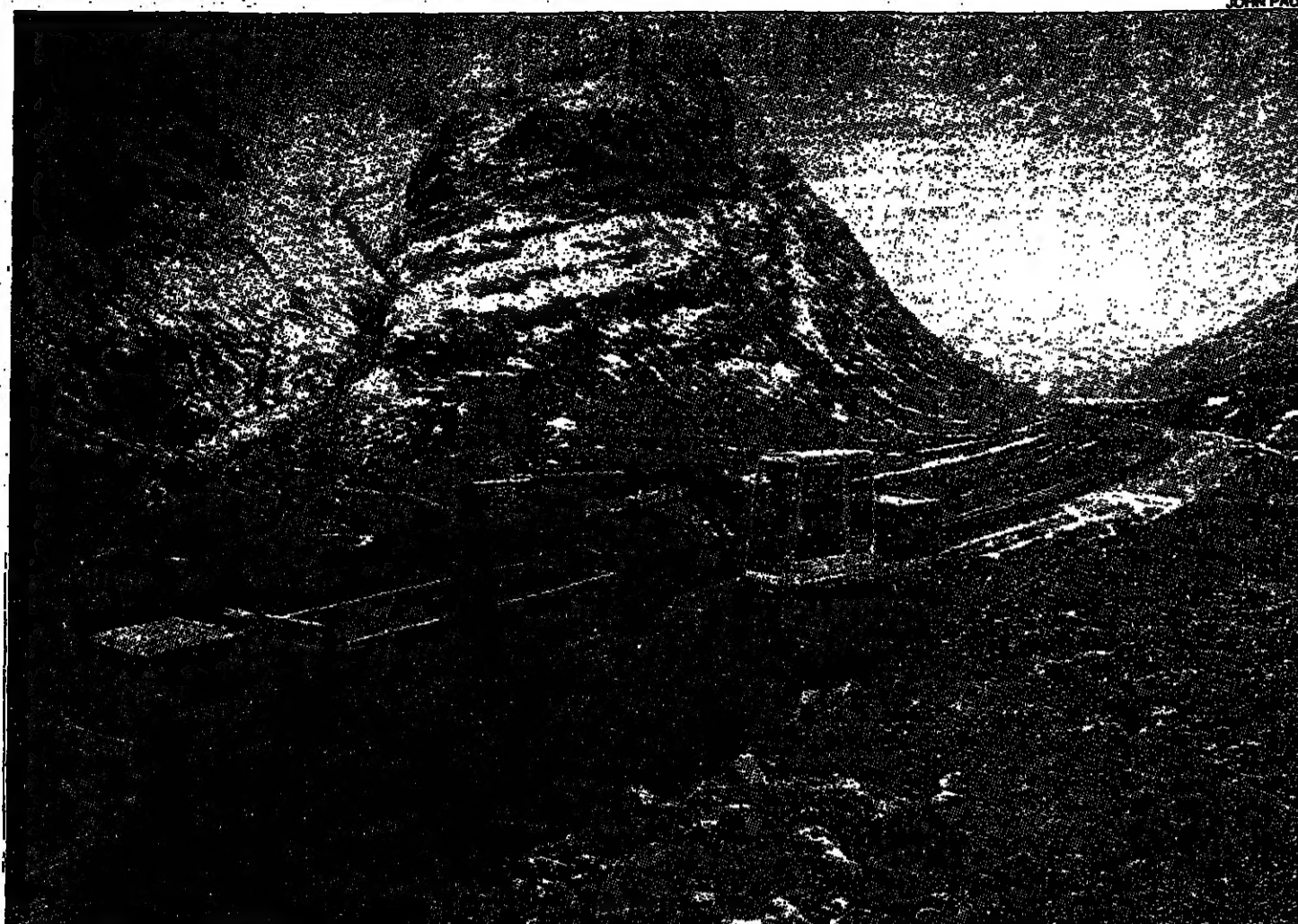
Senior party members say that, with Neil Kinnock apparently having moved Labour to the centre, and John Major taking a consolidation approach in the interests of Tory party unity, there is now little for the electorate to choose between them.

The document will form the centrepiece for the party's spring conference, to be held at Nottingham from March 15-17, when officials hope that it will help the Democrats resume the revival they were enjoying before Mr Major became prime minister. □ MPs' pay and the salaries of the prime minister and cabinet members rose by 8.5 per cent this week. The increase is linked to rises won by senior civil servants (Philip Basset writes).

From 1980, Margaret Thatcher very publicly took less pay than she was entitled to as prime minister. When John Major took over, however, he made it clear that he would draw his full salary because of mortgage and family commitments.

Mr Major's salary of £66,851 rose on January 1 to £72,533, and the £55,221 salary of his cabinet colleagues rose to £59,914. MPs' pay is linked to increases negotiated for grade 6 senior civil servants, who were awarded a rise of 8.5 per cent from August 1.

Leading article, page 11



Workmen starting the big task yesterday of clearing the A82 through Glasgow, the main Glasgow to Fort William road, which was blocked by a landslide on New Year's day. Police said the road was expected to remain closed indefinitely.

Police split over need to arm officers on the beat

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S police officers are divided on whether they should routinely carry guns on the streets, according to a poll among the country's officers published today by *Police Review* magazine.

The poll found that 50.3 per cent of the 1,195 officers who replied to a questionnaire last month believed all officers should be armed while 49.1 per cent believed the current practice of arming only specially trained officers for specific tasks should continue. Those who answered the questionnaire matched roughly the make-up of police ranks, with constables and sergeants representing 86 per cent of the replies. That group, which the magazine noted might be most at risk from armed criminals, was still only marginally in favour of carrying guns.

One constable from Dyfed-Powis with four years' experience told the magazine that he accepted the chances of being shot on his beat were slim. "However, it need only happen once and you become a statistic." He went on: "If I were armed I would hope I never have to draw the gun as I have not yet had to draw my truncheon. But it's there if you need it."

The results cover less than 1 per

cent of the police service and were gathered by a magazine with weekly sales of 30,000 and a weekly readership of 100,000. The figures could, however, be more significant than their size indicates. Many younger officers would support change and police attitudes could be shifting. A year ago a random survey of 1,706 officers showed 86 per cent opposed any change on arms policy.

The Police Federation, covering more than 120,000 junior ranks, has indicated that it might call for officers to be armed. Alan Eastwood, chairman of the federation, said the poll result was extremely important. "They are a signal that our younger colleagues feel they would be safer if they were armed. We as a representative body will have to seriously consider our own approach in the light of these remarkable figures."

Senior ranks have been resolutely opposed to change and yesterday the Association of Chief Police Officers said the figures represented only a very small percentage of the service. The Home Office said government policy remained opposed to arming the police because it would cause an increase in violence and the use of guns.

Hospital x-rays criticised

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY patients are exposed to unnecessarily high doses of radiation and an increased risk of cancer when they have x-rays in hospitals, according to a survey by the Consumers' Association today.

The survey supports expert evidence that up to 250 patients a year may die from cancer as a result of present x-ray practices, and calls for improved safeguards.

Last September the National Radiological Protection Board and the Royal College of Radiologists said that the amount of radiation received by patients from medical x-rays could be halved if hospitals took up 21 recommendations.

Those included restrictions on the use of the equipment for routine chest examinations and as a breast cancer screening tool for women under 50, in whom the disease is uncommon. The survey,

published in *Which?* magazine, involved interviews with 2,229 adults, and found that 502 had been given an x-ray in hospital in the previous 12 months. More than half said they were not asked if the relevant part of their body had been x-rayed before. Almost 30 per cent of women of childbearing age who had an x-ray between the ribs and knees said no attempt was made to find out if they were pregnant.

"Any exposure to radiation may carry some risk of cancer. There may also be a risk of hereditary disease if someone's reproductive cells are exposed to radiation," *Which?* says. "A doctor should decide if the medical benefit from giving an x-ray outweighs the risks. Because doctors must assess the risks and benefits for each individual patient, maximum safety levels have not been set for medical exposure to radiation."

The radiologists' report estimated that between 100 and 250 of the 160,000 cancer deaths a year in Britain might be due to unnecessary x-rays. The report said some hospitals gave radiation doses 20 times higher than others for the same type of x-ray, and some patients had to have repeat x-rays because the originals were lost or because of other inefficiencies in hospital departments. The *Which?* survey says equipment rarely shows what dose the patient is getting, and recommends that manufacturers include devices which provide individual readings.

Medical x-rays account for 12 per cent of the radiation to which the population is exposed. Most of the remainder comes from natural sources, including 51 per cent from radon gas, released into the atmosphere from soil, rocks, minerals and building materials.

Meningitis kills two brothers

Two brothers, aged six months and three years, have died within 28 days of each other from meningitis (Thomson Prentice writes).

Michael Taylor and his younger brother Sammy, of Sittingbourne, Kent, did not infect each other, Dr Brian Wood, consultant in communicable diseases at Medway health authority, said yesterday.

Five other cases of the illness, a form of meningococcal meningitis for which there is no vaccine, have been reported to the authority. The symptoms include headaches, a stiff neck and vomiting.

Priest's plea

Fergal Caraher, who was killed at a security force checkpoint on Sunday evening, was buried in Cullyhanna, south Armagh yesterday. More than 1,000 mourners heard Father Kevin Moran, the local parish priest, call for the publication of all the facts about Mr Caraher's death to allay anger in the community.

Prisoners at large

Eight prisoners were on the run yesterday after a series of escapes over the previous 24 hours. Four others who escaped on New Year's eve are also still at large. In the most serious incident yesterday a prison officer was threatened with a razor blade by three prisoners who escaped on their way to Newport Pagnell magistrates' court, Buckinghamshire.

Airports criticism

Many British airports give more space to the duty-free shop than to waiting passengers, according to a report published today by the Consumers' Association. *Which?* magazine says passengers "face an uncomfortable time in lounges not designed for prolonged waiting" and some information screens are "hopelessly inadequate".

Bareev takes lead

Evgeny Bareev of the Soviet Union has taken the lead after the fifth round of the Foreign and Colonial International Chess Challenge in Hastings, East Sussex. He beat Murray Chandler, of London, in 35 moves of a Nimzo Indian defence.

Blackmailer jailed

THE wife of a wealthy businessman faced ruin after her lover threatened to send her husband photographs of her handcuffed naked to a bed, the Old Bailey heard yesterday. Kim Wenham, her lover, aged 28, from East Ham, was jailed for five years.

Best of the Times
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Suspended police chief accuses boss

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

ALISON Halford, the assistant chief constable of Merseyside under suspension pending disciplinary proceedings, has lodged a complaint of her own against her chief constable, Jim Sharples, accusing him of neglect of duty.

Yesterday, the Merseyside police authority confirmed that a complaint had been made and that it was awaiting advice from the Police Complaints Authority (PCA). Normally, only members of the public can complain to the PCA, not serving police officers.

The PCA and the Merseyside police authority will have to consider what to do with the complaint against Mr Sharples. The case could be referred to the Merseyside police authority, which might call in a chief constable from another force to examine it or might look at the case itself.

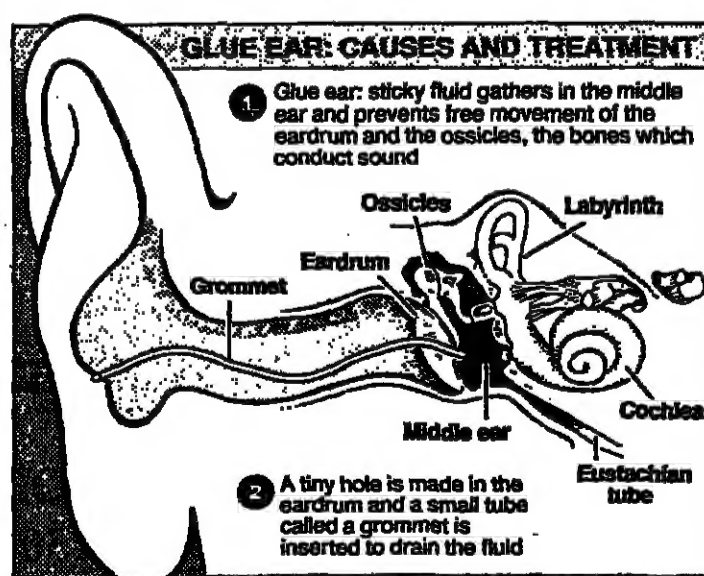
Miss Halford was suspended last month after an investigation into allegations of impropriety at the home of a businessman that she and other officers visited last June while she was the force's senior officer on duty. Next week, she is to bring a case to a Merseyside industrial tribunal claiming sexual discrimination in promotion.

In the latest issue of *Police Review* magazine, Miss Halford says that she has brought the complaint as a member of the public, which she had become once suspended. She says that her investigation began after a newspaper article containing allegations about her conduct.

She claims that information in the newspaper clearly came from a police source, and that Mr Sharples has failed to act on her request for an enquiry.

25% of children risk permanent deafness

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT



GLUE EAR: CAUSES AND TREATMENT
 1. Glue ear: sticky fluid gathers in the middle ear and prevents free movement of the eardrum and the ossicles, the bones which conduct sound.
 2. A tiny hole is made in the eardrum and a small tube called a grommet is inserted to drain the fluid.

MORE than a quarter of Britain's schoolchildren suffer from impaired learning ability and are at risk of permanent deafness because of failures to detect and treat glue ear, the National Deaf Children's Society said yesterday.

The society has launched a campaign to alert parents, teachers and general practitioners to the potential seriousness of the condition, an accumulation of fluid in the middle ear. The symptoms cause many children to become listless and seem inattentive, when in fact their hearing has become impaired. Robert Ashby, public services officer of the society, said yesterday.

"Research has shown that one in four young children will have glue ear at any one time, and it is

vital that a diagnosis is made as soon as possible. If untreated, it can cause permanent damage to hearing," he said.

The condition occurs when the Eustachian tube, which links the middle ear behind the ear drum to the back of the nose, becomes blocked by mucus. The sticky fluid is often the result of a viral infection such as the common cold. In many cases the condition resolves itself or is cured by antibiotics, but a minor operation is often necessary.

A tiny hole is made in the child's ear drum, and the fluid is drained out. A small plastic tube, called a grommet, is then inserted into the hole for a few weeks to prevent fluid accumulating.

Heseltine to bar talks on games losses

MICHAEL Heseltine might refuse to meet leaders of Sheffield council to discuss prospective losses of millions of pounds the city faces in staging the World Student Games (Douglas Broom writes).

The Labour-controlled council was due to meet the environment secretary this month to discuss its financial problems but a government source said last night that he was unhappy that the games were to be discussed.

The source said: "The council was told from the start the games must be self-financing. Now this is being billed as a crisis meeting. Mr Heseltine agreed to talk about Sheffield. We do not want the games to dominate the agenda."

Secret papers lead to reassessment of Irish history

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DURING the dark days of 1941, when British cities under black-out restrictions were suffering night time bombings by the Luftwaffe, the Irish government was considering a proposal to illuminate its capital at night with a neon sign to deter accidental German air raids.

Official papers among almost one million files released to the public for the first time in Dublin yesterday record a proposal by a senior civil servant that Dublin should either be floodlit at night or, better still, marked by a huge neon sign.

After an accidental German bombing of the North Strand area of Dublin in May 1941, the official told the cabinet of Eamon de Valera, the then Taoiseach: "The only 100 per cent way of safeguarding the city against a repetition of such accidents would

appear to be that of marking its position by an illuminated sign (neon lights, perhaps) which would form the letters of its name or, perhaps, 'Eire'."

He also hinted at the intriguing possibility that cities in Britain might follow suit, choosing and displaying the names of Irish cities or Eire in an attempt to confuse German bomber pilots. "So long as the British refrained from marking their cities with the name 'Eire', the official told the cabinet, "the proposed lighting device would probably protect us better than anything else we would do."

In the event, Mr de Valera was, in the early days of the war, did not rule out the possibility of a British invasion of Ireland, decided not to implement the proposal and it was finally shelved in early 1942. The papers made public yesterday under new

legislation provide, for the first time, the complete official record from the beginning of the Irish state in 1922 until 1960. From now on, Ireland comes in to line with Britain, releasing official documents under a 30-year rule.

Historians, one of whom described the release as a "tidal wave" of information, believed that much of the nation's history will now have to be reconsidered. Among many files touching on Anglo-Irish relations are those setting out the full extent of co-operation between London and Dublin during the second world war, in spite of Ireland's official neutrality.

Historians have generally accepted that Ireland was "neutral on the side of the allies" during the war, but the extent of co-operation recorded in the papers has caused some surprise. A secret Depart-

ment of External Affairs memorandum dated May 1941 summarised help given by Ireland to Britain in at least 13 separate areas.

These included broadcasting information to Britain about German air and submarine movements around Ireland, allowing the RAF to over-fly parts of Ireland, supplying Britain with a constant stream of intelligence and allowing the British Legation in Dublin to operate two secret wireless sets.

On Northern Ireland and the activities of the IRA, the papers underline Dublin's determination to resist British requests for the extradition of IRA suspects throughout the period covered by the releases.

In 1955, following IRA arms raids in England and Northern Ireland, the Irish ambassador in

London told senior Foreign Office officials: "In no circumstances would the Irish government be prepared to contemplate extradition of Irish citizens accused of IRA offences."

"Apart from the fact that such a course would be entirely contrary to international practice in the matter of extradition... it was something which no Irish government could contemplate in principle, and Irish public opinion could never be brought to stand for it," he said.

Other papers disclosed that, in early 1944, American troops stationed at Cookstown, Co Tyrone, sold about 700 rifles and revolvers to the local IRA. A letter from a senior Irish police officer to the Minister for Justice in April 1945 detailed the incident, which Dublin decided to keep secret from Washington.

Motor industry job cuts forecast as car sales fall 15%

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

UNION leaders last night forecast severe job cuts in the motor industry as sales of new cars slumped by more than 15 per cent last year.

Unofficial figures obtained by *The Times* in advance of statistics to be issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders next week underline growing fears about sales from high-street showrooms under pressure from high interest rates and lack of confidence in the economy.

Sales up to December 31 reached 1,998,159, compared with 2.3 million new cars registered in the record year of 1989. Although 1990 sales are the fourth highest on record, they were well below motor industry estimates and raise the prospect of a painful round of job losses in the industry after the huge shake-out of labour during the 1980s.

Ford, Britain's biggest car company, showed the greatest losses, with sales falling from 608,000 last year to just over 503,000. Losses mounted, despite the relaunch of the Escort, previously the company's best-selling model for eight years. Profits for Ford of Europe are expected to be cut by half this year.

Rover's sales were down by 31,000, in line with the declining market but in spite of the redesign of models such as the Metro. Vauxhall lost almost

28,000 sales, but the drop was less than the market decline, and Paul Tosch, the managing director, says that the company achieved a 17 per cent increase in productivity.

Union leaders say that the industry will have to face up to cutbacks later this year, with predictions that the market will fall even further without a fall in interest rates.

John Allen, key negotiator for the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "We are fearful that some sections of the industry will find the next year very difficult indeed."

Much of the fall in sales was in the luxury and executive sector, traditionally dominated by company fleets. Reduced profits and fears over the economy, however, led to many firms lengthening the time cars were kept in company fleets or cancelling orders.

Jaguar, which sells 90 per cent of its cars in Britain to companies, saw its UK sales for the first 11 months of 1990 fall 25 per cent, from 13,884 to 10,460. Worldwide sales were down about 10 per cent although sales to Japan rose by 40 per cent to more than 2,500. Japan is now the biggest customer after the United States and the UK. Executives are planning to reduce output from 48,000 to 42,000 cars and trim 800 staff over the next year through voluntary

redundancies and early retirements. Porsche has also fallen on hard times. Sales will make only 2,800 this year after last year's 3,339, forcing 36 redundancies from the staff of nearly 200 in Britain.

Sales catalogued by *The Times* do not take into account late registrations logged by manufacturers for book-keeping purposes, which may push the official year-end total beyond 2 million.

It is clear, however, that Britain's biggest manufacturing industry shows little ability to solve its balance of trade deficit with the rest of the world. Imports fell to 53 per cent of the cars sold in the UK during 1990, compared with 56.9 per cent in 1989, but most of the fall was due to increases in output at Vauxhall, which saw its Luton-built Cavalier model top the best-sellers list on several occasions.

Nissan, the largest Japanese company operating in Britain, suffered a drop from 138,000 to 106,000 as the company's new car, built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, had a poor start because of wrangling over the future of dealerships.

Other Japanese manufacturers, however, increased sales. Toyota, for example, saw sales rise marginally by 176 against the market trend, while Honda increased sales by nearly 4,500 cars.



Sylvia Ziranek, performance artist and sculptor, with her exhibition "Ice Villa Mol" at Leeds City Art Gallery until February 10. The exhibition consists of 19 cardboard tea-cup mobiles placed above two giant saucers, the biggest 6ft 6in high, in a gallery painted pink. For the opening of the exhibition Ms Ziranek, whose hair (also pink) has been sponsored by Becks Beer since 1987, read from her book *Very Food* and handed out canapés. On January 19 she is to give a performance at the exhibition, which, she says, will challenge ideas of normality in the home.

The coming of 'telecommuters'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TELECOMMUNICATIONS will transform the way we live and work, removing our dependence on the city, the market planning manager of British Telecom told the annual conference of the Institute of British Geographers in Sheffield yesterday.

David Whitehead said that two million people had already abandoned office rou-

ties to do at least part of their work by telephone, and the Henley Centre for Forecasting expects the figure to rise to ten million by the end of the decade.

He told the conference that, in theory, the revolution in computing and communications could remove the need for cities. "People and markets may still cling to

some form of city focus but these new technologies are giving us a choice," he said.

The potential for dispersing the place of work could ease the problems of an ageing population by encouraging more women and people aged over 55 to work, and bridge the North-South divide by allowing people in the North to work for companies in the South.

Speaking at a conference session on the future city, Mr Whitehead said that "telecommuting" is already becoming more common. Rank Xerox, JCI, Barclay's Bank, British Airways and British Telecom are all involved and many small businesses favoured working from home. He said

that developments such as British Telecom's Integrated Services Digital Network would give an impetus to the process. The network enables customers in areas such as the Highlands and Northern Ireland to send and receive voice, data and pictures via telephone lines, providing excellent links with London.

Mr Whitehead said that advances in video-conference technology would reinforce the trend. Costs had fallen and quality had increased, making telephone conferences accessible to many more companies. "Desk-top video-conferencing will soon be as commonplace as the personal computer," he said, and the view-phone will soon become a commercial reality.

It was clear that many people would choose to leave cities, Mr Whitehead said. A survey of a random sample of the population by the Henley Centre showed that 49 per cent of those questioned would like to live in a country village, with 21 per cent favouring a small town.

"Spiralling transport costs, traffic congestion, pollution and crime are just some of the factors fuelling this flight from the cities," Mr Whitehead said. The growth of telephone business would help solve some of these environmental problems, he said, and would improve individual and national productivity.

Mr Whitehead said that even shopping and banking could be done by telephone. Pioneers in the field include Kays, the home shopping service that operates through the Prestel system, and Firstdirect, the first British bank without branches, which opens 24 hours a day every day of the year.

The head of research at the estate agents Knight, Frank and Rutley expressed scepticism at the heavy emphasis placed on the property industry in inner-city policy by the government. Fer Dijkstra told the conference that other European governments had tended to use partnership arrangements between industry and government.

He said that the property industry had a reputation for getting things done, but it was selective in what it would tackle, and the cyclical nature of the industry linked urban renewal to the ups and downs of the property market. The answer, he thought, lay in galvanising the resources of the private sector while addressing its shortcomings.

History on a tea-towel derided

BRITAIN'S view of its own history is being distorted by tea-towel trivialities of heritage centres, according to Chris Thomas of St David's University College, Lampeter (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Such places were very popular but conveyed a nostalgic, warm and cosy image of a past that was often riven by conflict and social turmoil, he told the conference. "The experience they convey is not that of the past, however authentic they strive to be."

They served up the past in convenient parcels, "making and faking history" as they went along, Mr Thomas said. The reality of the past had to be limited in order for the heritage centre to be profitable, producing a static, interpreted history in which, for instance, the rupturing experience of the industrial revolution was portrayed as if it reflected the harmonious relations between government and the governed.

The danger was that people would come to believe that history represented in heritage centres and museums was reality. As they stood, he said, many heritage centres offered no more than a "crash course in the bourgeois myths of history."

There was also a real danger, he said, that the whole of Britain might be turned into an open-air museum where the only casualty would be a proper appreciation of the past.

Public transport 'not geared to women'

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

THE transport system in Britain discriminates against women by failing to take account of their different needs, Kerry Hamilton, of the transport studies unit of Bradford University, told the geographers' conference.

Unless they had cars — and no more than a quarter did have sole access to a car — women were dependent on public transport that was not planned with their needs in mind. They made more and shorter journeys than men, usually on foot or in buses rather than cars or trains, and their journeys were not usually the simple trips to and from work that men made.

Women often had to accompany children to school or the doctor's, or help old and disabled relatives. Those who could not afford taxis were frequently unable to make such journeys as often as they would like, simply because the transport system was not designed to make them easy.

A quarter of women's journeys were taken to shop for

food and other domestic needs, involving heavy loads. Yet supermarkets were increasingly designed only for the benefit of the car-driver, and one supermarket in London had admitted to her that it had made access to one of their shops by public transport difficult because they did not want the place clogged up with people with two carrier bags. "What they wanted were car drivers who would come in once a week and leave with 16 carrier bags full."

Transport policy invariably emphasised the car, she said, ignoring the needs of most women. "When are we going to have the Year of the Bus, or the Year of the Pavement?" The emphasis is always on the car," Ms Hamilton said.

Deregulation of bus services had made the situation worse. Services in the evenings or at weekends, when women were most likely to need them, had disappeared. "People without cars — and that overwhelmingly means women — are treated like lunatics."

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Controversies, intrigue and the high price of canine stardom

NO PRIZE glitters as brightly in the canine world as the silver trophy awarded to the dog decreed Best in Show by the judges at Crufts. The winning dog and owner are feted and praised, approached by rich Americans desperate to buy puppies, and seen twice nightly in television commercials smiling triumphantly at each other across a bowl of dog food or biscuits.

Next week Crufts celebrates its centenary at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre with a world record 21,232 entries. For the first time the Parson Jack Russell terrier will be competing, recognition at last for a breed long looked down on by some in the canine establishment.

Charles Cruft, the founding father of the show, was a great terrier man himself. He was also a hard-headed businessman who saw money in dogs. The young Cruft took a job with James Spratt of Holborn, purveyor of "dog cakes to the caring owner." The cakes were in fact soggy ship's biscuits, but the dogs loved them.

Business prospered and Cruft's ambitions grew. He organised a series of shows, first admitting just terriers, and later opening the doors to other breeds.

By 1891, Cruft, by now general manager of Spratts, felt ready to stamp his own image on the canine world. He launched Cruft's Great Dog Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington.

Cruft, who himself came to resemble a bloodhound in later life, would walk sedately among the



Controversy and Crufts, unthinkable in the day of Charles Cruft (left), combine frequently nowadays. But then perhaps Crufts, which celebrates its centenary at the NEC in Birmingham next week, was never quite what it seemed. Bill Frost reports

breeders, stroking their dogs, handing out prize and advice.

After Cruft died in 1938 his widow Emma took over the running of the show. The burden proved too great, and in 1948 she handed over the task of organising the show to the Kennel Club, on condition that the family name be kept on the masthead.

The success story continued. Crufts was synonymous with all that was best in the world of dog breeding, a platform for the acknowledgement of excellence on four legs.

The passage of time has left a few blots on the copybook, though. Controversy and Crufts, once an unthinkable combination, now coincide quite frequently. There have been doping scandals, allegations of plastic surgery on dogs to improve the profile, fur-dyeing, bleaching,

and the back-combing of coats to give that special fluffy look.

Last year Mrs Carol Fox, the owner of a champion samoyed, said she had received anonymous telephone calls demanding that she step out of the show ring. "They threatened the life of the dog and myself if I did not get him out of the ring."

Other breeders came forward to reveal that they, too, had received threats. One produced a letter pasted up from newspaper cuttings which read: "Curtains for your dog if you show again."

Dogs have been doped with tranquilizers before entering the ring. There has been kidnapping, too. Wilson Stephens, a former Crufts and Kennel Club committee member was prompted to say: "Crufts used to be one of the occasions which typified the best in

our national life...sad that these symptoms of degradation should have invaded the once friendly sporting world."

Two years ago an acrimonious war of words broke out between the show's organisers and the RSPCA. The dispute centred on the society's posters highlighting the destruction of 365,000 strays each year. Kennel Club officials had argued that one poster showing a pile of dead dogs was offensive. The club sought to ban the RSPCA's public relations director from the show.

Such controversies are a far cry from the original Crufts ethos. In 1891 there were no doping scandals or death threats, no bleaching, and no allegations of plastic surgery on the imperfect profile.

But then perhaps Crufts was never quite what it seemed. There has always been a very fine line between good sportsmanship and the professional foul. And whenever the element of competition becomes too strong, moral judgments can be blurred, the truth can become flexible. Even the credentials of the founding father have been called into question.

According to one body of canine historians, Charles Cruft owned large dogs in his time: a Great Dane, an Alsatian and a St Bernard. His widow tells a different story: "My husband and I both made it an iron rule never to accept or even own a dog." According to Mrs Cruft the couple kept only one pet, a cat.

Crufts opens on January 9 and runs until January 12.



Eyes on the prize: the rewards are high for the winning dog and owner

Holiday firm to recruit over-50s

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of couples in their late middle age are to be recruited as couriers by a holiday company, which is convinced it has discovered a vast new source of untapped talent.

Eurocamp, one of Britain's biggest camping and mobile home travel companies, recruits more than 1,000 people to look after their clients and caravan and camp sites throughout Europe during the summer peak. With a decline, however, in the available number of young people - often students looking for employment during the summer holidays or waiting to go to university - Eurocamp has decided to widen its recruitment net to include couples in their 50s and early 60s.

The recruitment drive is expected to prove especially popular among those who have taken early retirement, either voluntarily or in the growing number of redundancies now affecting British industry. "More and more couples are retiring early and this could be an ideal way for them to spend an interesting and active summer," Richard Atkinson, Eurocamp's managing

director, said. "After a lifetime of work they should have no difficulty in dealing with the widely differing types of people you meet on holiday. While we hope they will never have to face a crisis, there's no doubt that someone with experience is more likely to cope should an emergency arise."

Although the company, which is based in Knutsford, Cheshire, is specifically seeking couples to work alongside each other, it is also willing to accept applications from individuals. Each recruit will receive a week's training and will be paid between £80 and £105 a week depending on the job.

"Until now we have always gone for the younger temporary recruit," Margaret Atherton, of Eurocamp, said. "This is a new experience for us but one which we are convinced will prove beneficial for everyone."

At the other end of the age scale, Club 18-30 is beginning its own annual drive to recruit representatives for the summer season. It is concentrating on applicants aged between 20 and 26.

Former treasurer on theft charge

Michael Rogers, aged 48, the former £30,000-a-year treasurer of Cambridge city council, was charged yesterday with seven counts of false accounting and one of theft.

Mr Rogers, of Thriplow, Cambridgeshire, is to appear before magistrates in Cambridge on March 1.

Fraudster jailed
Paul Pierce, aged 43, who falsely claimed to be walking 500 miles around Britain for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, was jailed for a year by Tessa-side crown court yesterday. Pierce, of Cuckfield, Hampshire, who lived free at Inns and pocketed an estimated £1,000, admitted deception.

Body found

The body of Stephen Hersey, aged 16, who went missing on Christmas eve after going out for a drink with a friend, was recovered yesterday from a lake near Lingfield, Surrey, with a car that is believed to have careered out of control. Police said that they would question the car owner.

Year for assault

Neil Armour, aged 22, of Brighton, was jailed for a year by Southwark crown court yesterday for breaking a policeman's nose in a rioting in central London last March.

Sneak preview

Samples of a new, smaller 10p piece issued to the vending industry for testing have gone into circulation by mistake. The coins, dated 1993, are not legal tender. One has turned up in Exeter.

Fishing ban

Two men who fished for eelers with a 45ft long net were banned from fishing for four years by Taunton magistrates

Seas key to reducing dioxide emission

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TRAPPING carbon dioxide from oil and coal-fired power stations in the oceans could be a key to reducing the threat of global warming, a physicist says.

Almost all the world's industrial production of the gas could be kept from the atmosphere by pumping into the seas, according to Raymond Harrowell, a fellow of the Institute of Physics, who argues that 10,000 2,000-megawatt power stations, operating for a century, would only saturate 0.04 per cent of the oceans with carbon dioxide.

Other wastes, such as nitrogen, sulphur dioxide and water vapour, could be recovered for producing fertilisers, sulphuric acid and drinking water without undermining, and possibly boosting, the power stations' efficiency, Mr Harrowell, a consultant physicist in Cambridge and formerly of PA Technology Group, says.

Some waste carbon dioxide could also be harvested to produce chemicals and fuels, such as methanol, methane and formic acid, as developments in biotechnology and advanced catalysts become commercial, he argues in a paper which has been accepted for publication in the journal *Nature*.

Eliminating carbon dioxide emissions is not only possible with existing "flue-gas scrubbing" technology but superior to energy efficiency or switching to nuclear power, he says.

Mr Harrowell has estimated that, based on Henry's law of solubility, the daily output of the greenhouse gas could be piped and trapped in 16,900 square metres of sea water between 100 and 20 feet below the surface. "For the cost of a pipeline, island stations could also use this method."



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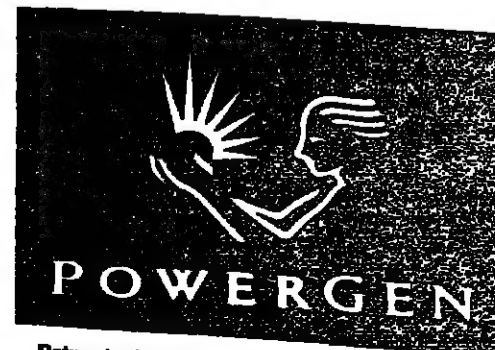
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UN peacemakers gamble credibility on a successful Gulf outcome

THE renaissance of the United Nations began four years ago when the five great powers started holding regular private meetings to help end the Iran-Iraq war. Now conflict in the Gulf might be reignited, with the United Nations' blessing.

The unprecedented unity of the 15-nation security council, particularly of its five permanent members, Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States, has brought the organisation to the brink of its greatest test.

Intended to maintain the peace after the second world war, the United Nations now find itself sanctioning war. Optimists proclaim the advent of a new world order, based on the organisation's original concept of "collective security". But pessimists contend that the United Nations has been abused and risks being discredited. The final judgment will depend on how the Gulf confrontation is resolved.

The security council's swift action in condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its subsequent adoption of a string of resolutions imposing comprehensive

sanctions, enforced by naval and air blockades, won almost universal praise. The international community appeared to have learnt the lesson of the League of Nations, which failed to check expansionist dictators in the 1930s.

But President Saddam Hussein did not flinch and the security council was forced to approve the use of force to drive him from Kuwait if Iraqi troops do not pull out by January 15. Rather than using Article 42 — the provision of the UN charter which enables UN forces to be ordered into battle to protect international peace and security — the security council authorised the use of "all necessary means" to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

Despite early resistance, the security council accepted a Korean war-style solution, in which the United Nations effectively contracted out its military operations to the United States. Except that, this time, there was no UN flag, only a UN "umbrella".

UN officials now fear that the failure to use Article 42 — included in the charter to provide teeth that the League

By authorising the use of force against Iraq, the UN risks being discredited if war drags on. James Bone in New York explains how history now threatens to catch up with the newly united world body

of Nations lacked — could discredit the organisation if a war against Iraq goes badly. They are worried that the United Nations will emerge with its prestige enhanced only if the war is relatively short, say six weeks. United Nations peacekeepers would then re-establish order and organise a final peace settlement.

Once the conflict was resolved, attention would turn to what many regard as the ultimate prize: the convening of a UN-sponsored peace conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

But if a war spreads and drags on, and the anti-Iraq coalition breaks up, these officials say the organisation could be blamed for failing to stop — and even endorsing — a regional war it could not control because it abdicated the com-

mand role envisaged in its founding charter.

Throughout the confrontation, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the secretary-general, has feared that the conflict might spiral out of control. In emotional off-the-cuff remarks in September, after abortive meetings with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, he said a "tremendous conflagration" was possible. This was from a man known for his extreme caution.

Instead of forming a special task force for the Gulf, as he has done with other crises, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar has retained personal responsibility for Gulf diplomacy and discusses it only with a handful of his closest aides.

Rumours have begun to circulate at the United Nations that instead of

stepping down when his term expires at the end of this year, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar will agree to serve another two years to prevent a leadership contest at a crucial time in UN history.

African nations claim that it is their turn to provide a secretary-general, but have so far been unable to agree on a single candidate.

Among the names mentioned are President Diouf of Senegal; Olara Otunnu, the Ugandan president of the International Peace Academy; Bernard Chidzero, the Zimbabwean finance minister; and Olusegun Obasanjo, the former Nigerian leader.

Western nations, which want Señor Pérez de Cuéllar to serve another term, are expected to push for a non-African candidate if the Africans remain split.

The favourite at this stage is Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian prime minister and author of a UN study on development and the environment. These are key issues on the so-called global agenda now facing the United Nations.

UN officials also worry that the Gulf

conflict will distract the organisation from its other tasks.

The largest UN peacekeeping operation yet is planned for Cambodia while elections are held to end the decade-old civil war there. The operation would involve up to 20,000 UN personnel, including about 10,000 blue-helmeted troops, and cost up to \$5 billion (\$2.6 billion) — five times the organisation's normal annual budget.

Peace moves are also afoot in the disputed desert territory of the Western Sahara, where the United Nations hopes to hold a referendum on its possible independence from Morocco, and in El Salvador, where quiet negotiations are under way in an effort to mediate a settlement between guerrillas and recalcitrant army officers.

Then there is the new array of issues on the agenda to be tackled — debt, drugs, AIDS and the environment. Such questions require concerted international action, which is possible only if the United Nations emerges from the Gulf confrontation with its prestige reinforced.

Luxembourg expects Iraq to pull out at last minute

From MICHAEL BRYNIN IN BRUSSELS

LUXEMBOURG, host to an emergency meeting of foreign ministers tomorrow, said yesterday that war in the Gulf was unlikely as Iraq would probably withdraw from Kuwait just before the January 15 deadline.

Jacques Poos, the foreign minister, said in a radio interview: "We are not heading for a war, because I have the feeling that Saddam Hussein will pull out of Kuwait at the last minute."

He added: "The strongest and most sophisticated army in the world is facing a large, but Third World, army. If Saddam Hussein does his calculations, he will see he has no chance and will give in."

Jacques Santer, the Luxem-

bourg prime minister, said yesterday that war must be a last resort. Speaking on German radio, he underlined the willingness of the EC and the world community to take a fresh look at the Palestinian question once the occupation of Kuwait ended.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, who last week called for tomorrow's meeting, said in the same broadcast that the stability of the Gulf region would have to be considered after an Iraqi withdrawal.

Community leaders have insisted that they all stand squarely behind the United Nations and Washington over the Gulf. But irritation has surfaced in some countries at the continuing impasse and the failure of Washington and Baghdad to agree to talks.

Some EC countries are floating the idea of sending Mr Poos, currently president of the European Council, to Baghdad to meet Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. But others, including Britain, believe this would serve little purpose. The Dutch foreign ministry said such a suggestion was premature because it risked pre-empting continuing attempts to arrange a United States-Iraqi meeting.

Belgium, which became a member of the security council on Tuesday, reflects the dilemma of many EC countries.

Yesterday it announced it was ready to send 18 Mirage fighter-bombers to Turkey as part of a Nato force to deter any attack from Iraq. But Wilfried Martens, the prime minister, said in an interview published yesterday that no Belgian troops would be sent to the Gulf, even if war broke out.

Mark Eyskens, the Belgian foreign minister, said the Twelve should try to get talks going with Iraq even "at five minutes to midnight".

EC foreign ministers will also discuss the deteriorating situation in the Soviet Union and the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister.

Tehran pledges to stay neutral

Islamabad — Iran yesterday renewed its undertaking to remain neutral should war break out over Kuwait. "Iran has adopted a neutral posture and it is keen that the problem is resolved peacefully," Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, said on arrival here for a two-day visit.

Dr Velayati, who is in Islamabad for talks on the Gulf confrontation with his Pakistani and Turkish counterparts, did not elaborate on the pledge he first made in Tehran on Monday. That was in sharp contrast to a speech by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, in which he said Iran would act with other Gulf states to banish America and its allies from the region.

Dr Velayati said on Monday that Iran would not allow either Iraq or the multinational force to use its territory or airspace. (Reuters)

Ships for Gulf

Sabir Bay — A powerful 13-ship American armada has left the Philippines for the Gulf. The amphibious task force of 7,500 marines, supported by Harrier jump-jets, helicopters and M-60 tanks, will join another seaborne battle group in the largest amphibious assault force mustered by America since the Korean war. (Reuters)

'No war' claim

Paris — Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, says nobody will dare to unleash a Gulf attack and predicts that the day after the United Nations deadline for the use of force expires will be quite normal. "January 16 will be a day like any other," he told the Paris daily, *Le Figaro*. (Reuters)

Lebanon toll up

Beirut — Lebanon's civil war killed at least 2,530 people in 1990, the highest toll for four years, security sources said. Most of the deaths were reported in inter-Christian, inter-Shia battles and in the Syrian-led assault on east Beirut that toppled General Michel Aoun, the rebel Christian leader. (Reuters)

Peace boat sails

Algiers — A second Iraqi "peace boat", organised by North African trade unionists, is to leave Algiers for the Gulf with a cargo of three tonnes of medicine. (Reuters)



Call to arms: Paul Stone, from Bolton, Lancashire, a bogler with the 1st Battalion, Royal Scots, blows a test blast at the desert campsite inside Saudi Arabia, where his battalion recently arrived from Germany to augment the multinational build-up of forces ranged against Iraq

Rebel radio attacks 'mad bull' Saddam

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein, unused to the slightest whisper of criticism at home where he controls all media, is now being abused daily on airwaves beamed in by a new radio station run by Iraqi opposition groups calling for his overthrow.

Saad Jabr, the chairman of a London-based opposition group, said: "The broadcasts will be a tremendous breath of fresh air for the Iraqi people, who will realise Saddam is not invincible and that there are people out there who want to help them."

The first broadcasts, by the Voice of Free Iraq, heard on Tuesday, praised the people of Tikrit, President Saddam's birthplace, but denounced him and his family as "crooked". The radio called on the military to overthrow their leader before it was too late. It praised Lieutenant-General Saadi Tu'ma Abbas, Iraq's new defence minister, describing him as a "successful military man, intelligent and educated, who appreciates

the current military situation in the region". He was urged to "stop the mad bull and take things in hand".

The station said it was broadcasting to Iraq on one medium-wave and three short-wave frequencies, which will make it far harder for President Saddam to jam than similar attempts by Kurdish opposition groups. The frequencies were contributed by

the radio services of Iraq's main Arab opponents, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Mr Jabr, who delivered one of the commentaries on Tuesday, said there had long been plans to begin such a station, but it had been difficult to find Arab states willing to incur Iraq's wrath by co-operating with frequencies. "Because he controls the media, the

despondent Iraqi people are used to seeing Saddam portrayed as invincible, ready to take on the US and the West: this radio will shock them into reality," said Mr Jabr, one of the few to give his name on the air. Others, said to be from a wide range of opposition groups, were clearly afraid to reveal their identities.

"The internal opposition to Saddam is there. Ninety per cent of Iraqis hate him, but they're silent, frightened and despondent majority," said Mr Jabr.

While only the Iraqi military had any chance of toppling Saddam, "soldiers too will be enthused, encouraged, given heart" by the Voice of Free Iraq, he said. Iraq's opposition groups have virtually no military clout inside Iraq.

Colonel Gadafi said in October that he could mobilise a million fighters to go to the Gulf if hostilities erupted, but failed to indicate whose side they would take. He hinted on Tuesday night that a fourth party, thought to be King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, would attend the proposed mini-summit.

The Libyan leader tried last month to arrange a meeting in Tripoli between President Saddam Hussein and King Fahd. Relishing the publicity such a meeting would bring him, Colonel Gadafi flew in hundreds of reporters to witness it. When it fell through, he said he was washing his hands of the Gulf conflict.

'No price too high' to drive off invader

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IRAQ'S invasion of Kuwait has presented the world with its biggest challenge since the second world war, President Bush said in a television interview with David Frost, broadcast here last night.

Insisting that "no price is too heavy to pay to reverse that aggression", Mr Bush argued that the ultimate cost would be far greater if America and the United Nations failed to persuade President Saddam Hussein to withdraw and the chance of securing lasting stability in the Gulf and a new world order was missed. "It's that big. It's that important... Nothing of this importance since world war two," he said, adding: "We cannot stop one inch short of successful resolution."

With 12 days to go to the UN deadline for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said that, despite rumours to the contrary, Baghdad had made no attempt to break the deadlock over dates for direct talks between President Saddam and James Baker, the secretary of state. Before Christmas, Mr Bush rejected Iraq's offer of January 12 as being too close to the UN deadline and said that today would be the last acceptable date. He has, however, shown some flexibility.

Pentagon spokesmen in Saudi Arabia said Iraq was continuing to improve its defences in and around Kuwait and that there was no evidence of its withdrawing any of its 510,000 troops, 4,000 tanks and 2,700 artillery pieces. At a weekly briefing designed to unnerve the Iraqis as much as to impart informa-

tion, the spokesmen disparaged Iraq's military capabilities while disclosing that America now had 325,000 servicemen, 50 warships, 1,300 combat aircraft, 1,000 tanks, 1,500 helicopters and 2,000 armoured personnel-carriers in the region.

Iraqi pilots were capable of performing "basic flight manoeuvres" but would be unable to respond successfully in "a fast-moving, dynamic tactical environment", while the Iraqi navy consisted of "a small fleet of ageing and maintenance-intensive missile attack boats".

Jordanian 'shift to extremism'

From PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI leaders said yesterday that the new Jordanian government, which includes five members of the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, represents a dangerous shift towards extremism.

David Levy, the foreign minister, said the increasing strength of extreme elements should set off a warning signal, primarily to the Jordanian authorities. "For a long time, very extreme elements have been gaining strength in Jordan," he told a visiting Jewish delegation from Canada.

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Albanian flood of refugees strains Greek hospitality

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN YANINA, GREECE

THOUSANDS of Albanian refugees, mostly of Greek origin, yesterday continued to leave their hardline communist country to cross into Greece with no plans for a return, despite calls for democratisation by the Tirana regime.

Authorities in the northern town of Yanina said they had filled the area's hotels, schools and churches with more than 3,500 Albanians who have crossed the border in the past three days. They said the number could double during the week. Six thousand Albanians have arrived in Greece since early December.

Nikos Gardiki, aged 40, who left his wife and three children behind, said: "I walked for 15 hours in a snowstorm, got shot at by guards, and dug a tunnel under the electrified barbed wire across the border line, but now I am free."

Albania will remain the world's largest jail until this government collapses.

Mr Gardiki said he was freed in October from a labour camp in northern Albania, where he worked in a coal mine. He spent 18 years in jail for conspiring against state interests and for his repeated attempts to flee the country.

Apostolis Afias, another refugee who served ten years in a copper mine, said: "A joke in Albania says that if you survive a labour camp you will never die. We were forced to work for 18 hours a day, the guards beat us regularly, and our daily food was two slices of dry bread."

One of the youngest refugees, Florian, aged five, was separated from his parents last week when they were caught by border guards. The constantly crying boy managed to cross the border with his uncle under machinegun fire. He later learned that his parents were sentenced to a year in prison for trying to escape.

The refugees, most of them from the 350,000-strong Greek community in southern Albania, said they did not trust the democratic reforms of President Alio. "Alio took down Stalin's statues, but continues to be a Stalinist," Mr Afias said. "His call for democracy is a trick to hold on to power and avoid bloodshed, which is coming and will be worse than Romania."

The inflow of refugees has alarmed the Greek authorities, who lack the means to absorb them. Constantine Mitsotakis, the conservative prime minister, urged them in a new year message to stay at home. Amid rumours that Greece will close its borders, he said he would visit Tirana and villages of the Greek community in Albania for two days from January 13.

Albanians who arrived in Athens looked ecstatically at the Christmas-decorated shops, busy streets and packed restaurants. "I never imagined a world like this existed," one refugee, Panos Tsilias, said.

At the border, refugees are crammed into churches, schools, hospitals, buildings under construction, and private homes. A family of five usually shares one unheated room and a common toilet with others.

The authorities are worried about the possibility of epidemics, and the Greek Red Cross will send food, tents and medical supplies to the area. The head of the Greek armed forces, General Yannis Veryvakis, flew to Yanina ahead of a government-appointed committee for the relief of the refugees.

Aid is also being sent by the Greek Orthodox church, which has spearheaded a campaign for the religious rights of the ethnic Greeks since 1967 when Tirana closed all churches, Greece and Albania officially ended a 47-year state of war in 1987. Officials said that the refugees may be moved temporarily to nearby army camps.

Government officials said Mr Mitsotakis would press President Alio to proceed faster with democratic reforms, and would try to persuade the ethnic Greeks to stay put and wait for the changes.

But the refugee wave is expected to swell. Police said most border guards have stopped shooting at the escapees, and a government spokesman, Byron Polydoros, accused Tirana of a deliberate plan to "evacuate southern Albania of its indigenous (Greek) population". He said the Albanian government was spreading false propaganda that the borders would close.

Brittany updates ancient language

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS ALL good Bretons will happily tell the outsider, with passion and at length, their ancient language lives on in the region, despite the unceasing pressure of that alien tongue known as French.

Some surveys have suggested that up to half the population of the more traditional areas of Brittany can either speak or understand it. There is even growing evidence among the region's younger people that there is a revival of interest in learning Breton.

But there are certain problems involved in trying to adapt a language that is well over 1,000 years old to life on the threshold of the 21st century. Faced with the exciting prospect of opening the first high school to provide an entirely Breton syllabus, a score of dedicated wordsmiths are now toiling to create an entirely new vocabulary, above all concentrating on scientific and technical subjects.

The aim is to come up with 20,000 fresh words that will help bridge the gap in mathematics, physics, engineering, computer studies and so on. The arts will not be neglected, nor will sport and leisure activities. Where necessary, they will borrow from English, German—even French—and there are high hopes that Welsh will prove to be a particularly rewarding source in the field of science.

Not that Brittany is without its own resources and flexibility. As Lukiana Kergat, head of Breton and Celtic studies at the University of Rennes, told *Le Monde*, the oldest known text in the language, dating from the year 780, is a treatise on medicine. A learned paper on geometry was published in Breton in the 1930s, a correspondence course in mathematics was available and half a dozen more modern textbooks for schools have subsequently appeared.

For M Kergat, who also heads Brittany's "kreizenn ar geriaouin"—roughly translating as "common mission on words"—the real trick will be to bretonise what is already well-established in the world's most widely spoken languages. When that does not work, the commission will invent its own vocabulary, leaning towards a Welsh usage wherever it is possible.

No concessions are to be made to what he called "ultra-nationalist" Bretons who demand that everything must be translated directly into their native tongue.

Some of those activists represent the uglier side of the Bretons' fervent desire to regain and retain their own linguistic and cultural heritage. From relatively harmless sabotage of road signs in French, the self-styled Breton Revolutionary Army has periodically turned to arson and the midnight bomb to ram home its nationalist message to the "colonialists" in Paris.

The reluctance of the state to help finance education in the Breton language is a constant bone of contention with those behind Diwan, an infinitely more respectable organisation dedicated to reviving the language in the five regions that made up ancient Brittany. According to Diwan's directors, successive French governments have failed to honour promises to subsidise its campaign.

Undaunted, Diwan is pressing ahead with its plans for the *lycée*, which will open as soon as the 20,000 new words of Breton, with or without undertones from Wales and elsewhere, have been quarried from the linguistic rockface.



Safe at last: Chrysanthé Kotsani, aged 72, and her six-month-old granddaughter, Elli, relax in a shelter for refugees in the northern Greek village of Pagonian, after fleeing from Albania

Norway rallies to aid of old allies in Soviet far north

FROM NICK WORRALL IN MURMANSK

WHILE most European emergency aid for the hungry citizens of the Soviet Union is being directed to Moscow and Leningrad, relief packages from Norway are being sent north to Murmansk, 200 miles inside the Arctic Circle.

With temperatures below -15°C, Gunnar Schmidt is calling on old-age pensioners and children's homes in the freezing city with parcels of food and clothing. These are sent from every corner of Norway to her home at Kirkenes, near the Soviet border, in response to her appeals to help poor people here and in nearby villages.

"You must understand that the Russian people saved us from the Nazis in the second world war," she said. "Our people owe them a great debt and one way to repay it is to help them now they are hungry and cold."

Murmansk is the Soviet Union's most northerly city. It is a busy fishing port whose half a million people live much of their lives either in the dark or a murky gloom. It will get a great deal colder here before they see the sun again towards the end of January. It last shone in September. Then they have an exasperating period in May when it shines 24 hours a day. Vast quantities of vodka are said to be consumed to pass the time. People are proud, hardworking and, because conditions are so harsh, among the highest paid in the Soviet Union. However, as in

many Soviet regions, they are suffering chronic food shortages. Lack of agricultural and planning reform has resulted in broken supply agreements between republics. So each province, region or city has been forced to fend for itself.

Here, at the northernmost point of the Kola peninsula, the situation is made worse by long distances and snowbound roads. Murmansk is literally the end of the line. While Moscow and Leningrad have only just begun to ration food, the people here have been given coupons for essentials like meat, pasta and dairy produce since July.

Each person gets just 1lb of macaroni every three months and a litre of cooking oil. The ration of 2lb of meat a week is often unfulfilled because there is not enough to go round. Some families do not see milk or butter for a week or more.

The shortages began when the Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, carelessly announced imminent food price rises. According to Tatyana Kolyashnikova, a journalist on the local Communist party newspaper, *Polar Pravda*, the shops emptied in a day and reserves were exhausted a few days later.

He was born in Bordeaux into a solidly bourgeois family. His father was an exporter of food products. After studying classics, Mr Tauran attended the Institut Catholique in Toulouse and the Gregorian university in Rome. With a degree in canon law, he was ordained in 1969.

After three years as a parish priest, he entered the pontifical ecclesiastical academy in 1972 and the diplomatic service of the Vatican in 1975. Between 1975 and 1983 he was posted first to the apostolic nunciature in the Dominican Republic and afterwards to the Vatican mission in Lebanon.

'Pope in waiting' wins top Vatican portfolio

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

THE Vatican's new foreign minister is a Frenchman, aged 48, with a passion for Bach and biographies. Mr Jean-Louis Tauran, one of the fastest rising stars in the Holy See, is earmarked as the firm favourite of the Pope. There is also some speculation that he could, one day, become Pope.

His appointment as secretary for relations with other states, the Vatican equivalent of foreign minister, is a stunning career leap for a diplomat who, apart from being relatively young, would not, in the normal course of his career, have been a papal nuncio yet.

Mr Tauran's rise is less surprising when the posts he has held in the past are taken into account. He was the Vatican's representative at the Helsinki conference, promoting the causes of social justice and religious freedom. And he was one of the key figures in defining Vatican policy towards Lebanon.

"There is no doubt that the Pope likes him and feels comfortable with him. He is a man who will do exactly what the Pope wants," said a senior Vatican source.

Mr Tauran, who has a reputation as an anglophile, became archbishop when he was named head of the Vatican's diplomatic service.

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Ryzhkov: careless speech emptied Murmansk shops

Pravda tries to put a dead horse into outer space

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

ARGUING that communism is precisely the opposite of what most people think it is, Natalya Morozova yesterday told *Pravda* readers in a full-page article under the headline "To communism... on a flying saucer" that what they had been taught was communism was really anti-communism.

"We should understand clearly," she said, "that the real anti-communists were none other than our own ideologists. It was they who did everything in their power to kill people's faith in communism, to extinguish even the tiniest spark of interest in communist teaching—and we know now that they achieved a great deal. Essentially the whole party leadership, right up to 1985 (when President Gorbachev came to power) continued the Stalinist tradition of exploiting people's enthusiasm to cover up their own incompetence to govern."

Miss Morozova then tried to redefine communism as a system, still in its infancy when Lenin died, which would harness people's initiative, work and goodwill to a common cause, and which had not yet been properly tried.

Even three years ago, her article would have been a sensation. That the "re-evaluation of values" is still a sensitive subject was shown by the long and complex ecological analogy Miss Morozova used to frame her story.

The casual reader confronted with a full page of *Pravda* print would hardly have had the patience to penetrate to the substance. Even the first three columns, which concentrated on a supposed scientist's claim to have devised a completely new and environmentally friendly source of power, would have given little clue to what was to come.

Little by little, however, Miss Morozova reached her point, and energy was translated into an economic or political system. She professed amazement at the opposition her inventive, if barely disguised, reference to Mr Gorbachev, she wrote: "You would have thought that a grateful mankind would have praised these people to the skies and treated them as saviours of the planet. But no! Inventors are confronted with a mighty wall of resistance."

People would quote spurious Soviet rules of thermodynamics.

Israeli flag flies again in Moscow

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AT NOON today, for the first time since Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations were broken off 23 years ago, the Israeli flag will be hoisted officially in front of a featureless, pale-yellow, Moscow building to mark its redesignation as a consulate-general.

The restoration of consular relations, enabling Israel to recover formally, from its Dutch caretakers, the Moscow embassy which it was forced to leave in 1967, represents a landmark in the restoration of ties. "This is a step forward, a step that took a long time coming," said Arieh Levita, an Israeli diplomat who, in his new capacity as consul-general, could be faced with up to 800,000 entry applications from Soviet Jews over the next two years.

Moscow still wants some movement towards a Middle East settlement before re-establishing full diplomatic relations. Vitali Churkin, the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, said yesterday a "certain environment" had to be created before the two countries could exchange ambassadors.

18 killed in Chinese cinema stampede

Peking—Eighteen people were killed and more than 30 injured, ten seriously, when a stampede broke out at an overcrowded village cinema near the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, which borders on Hong Kong.

The disaster occurred on New Year's eve as people tried to enter the open-air cinema while others who had just finished watching an earlier showing were still trying to get out, according to the local official *Yangcheng Evening News*. The report said the privately-run cinema could only seat 600 people, but more than 1,000 people crowded inside.

Operation mix-up

Brussels—Two Belgian doctors have been fined £100 each for sterilising a woman who went to hospital for an abortion, a court spokesman said. The doctors, who also removed the woman's appendix without asking, said there had been a misunderstanding. They were ordered by the court in Bruges to pay £3,800 damages as well as the fine. (Reuter)

Warning strike

Budapest—Hungarian rail engineers, pressing for higher wages, held a two-hour warning strike, paralysing early morning traffic. The stoppage halted more than half of international express trains and 80 per cent of local trains. (Reuter)

Fireworks risk

Rome—Two people were killed and nearly 1,000 were injured by exploding firecrackers and stray bullets in Italy's traditionally noisy New Year celebrations. The interior ministry reported. The Naples area again had the highest number of casualties, despite confiscation by police of many fireworks. (AP)

Colonel murdered

San Sebastian—Two unidentified gunmen killed a Spanish army colonel when they sprayed his car with gunfire in this Basque city, police said. Military sources said the victim was Colonel Luis Garcia Lozano, second-in-command of the San Sebastian military zone. (Reuter)

Death on duty

Paris—Thirty-six journalists were killed last year in the course of duty, the media freedom group Reporters sans Frontières said. It said it had recorded killings in 17 countries, most of them in Latin America, Asia or Africa, and that, according to its 1990 figures, the Philippines, where seven were killed, was the most deadly country for journalists. (Reuter)

Learning trip

Sydney—The Russian Federation hopes to use Australia's expertise in "outback" education to teach thousands of children left without schools by the breakdown of collective farms. A delegation from Russia's education ministry has met education officials from South Australia, Australia's third largest state, which pioneered long-distance education and established the School of the Air in 1951. (Reuter)

MELBOURNE NOTEBOOK by Robert Cockburn

City may be savaged by spectre of dead sheep

COUNTRY folk in Victoria are in revolt, not for the first time. At dawn tomorrow thousands will board chartered buses many muttering that they should have brought their guns—and head for the state parliament in Melbourne to demand an end of the Labor government.

These are people suffering the worst rural slump since the pre-war depression. But while Australia's most European of cities, complete with pavement cafes and now the *Phantom of the Opera*, will no doubt scoff at these country cousins, their history of secret armies in the 1930s and 1940s dedicated to rightwing subversion has got politicians rattled.

Out in Victoria's Hitchcock landscape of crop-dusted plains and weatherboard towns, extremism is re-emerging as a decline sets in. The dominoes, tripped by EC and US farm subsidies, fall here. Beside railway tracks, silos are being filled with wheat nobody wants. Sheep are being shot in their tens of thousands, or simply given away. Dead or alive, they are now worth less than the cost of a bullet.

The National Farmers' Federation says one-third of Australia's 40,000 remaining farmers will default on bank loans in 1991. The rural suicide rate has gone up by 76

per cent. Men are going mad as the hottest summer in years sparks daily bush fires that consume land, homes and livestock. Forget rational explanations of last month's failed Gatt negotiations. Out here a scapegoat is wanted.

Danny Johnson, an overnight hero from Warracknabeal in Western Victoria, is credited with starting tomorrow's Save Australia Rally with

letters to rural newspapers decrying Labor's neglect of the land and those who work it. But close behind is seen the hand of the neo-fascist League of Rights.

Victoria's state historian, Dr Bernard Barrett, warns of a return to the militancy of the 1930s when 30,000 armed men joined the secret White Army in Victoria's Western Wimmera and Mallee districts. In New South Wales, 25,000 men formed the Old Guard to confront Labor Premier Jack Lang. He was beaten to the official opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 by Captain Francis de Groot, who in a horseback protest, galloped ahead of the premier's party to cut the ribbon with his sword. Today's protesters remind you that Lang was dismissed by the New South Wales governor a few weeks later. The last attempt to revive the secret bush armies coincided with Gough Whitlam's rise and fall in the 1970s. Tomorrow's target is a special protest reserved for the "Fabian" Bob Hawke, Australia's Prime Minister.

But not everyone falls victim to the boom-bust trade in wheat and sheep or the propaganda trail that leads to Melbourne. Arch Hendy, a farmer, got through the winter of 1938 by selling the first radios



EC calls for ceasefire in Somalia as hundreds flee

By ANDREW LYCETT

THE European Community yesterday appealed for the government and rebels in Somalia to call a truce. "The community is gravely worried about the fate of its citizens in the present circumstances," it said in a statement released by the Italian foreign ministry.

"(We) direct an urgent appeal to all parties in the conflict that they heed the plight of innocent civilians and agree a ceasefire from 0800 to 1800 on January 3 to create the conditions for dialogue," the statement said. There are about 350 Italians and about 120 other Westerners in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, Italian diplomatic sources said.

Earlier, the United Somali Congress, which claims to control most of Mogadishu, had called on Western countries, including Britain, to press the incumbent government of President Siad Barre

to lay down his arms and prevent further loss of innocent life. It also declined to participate in any peace talks brokered by Egypt and Italy.

More than 500 people are reported to have been killed as the congress has pinned down government forces in the Somali capital during five days of fierce fighting which continued yesterday. But accounts are still confused about who has the upper hand. Although the congress claims to hold most of the city, President Siad Barre's government says it remains in control. It has dismissed the congress as "bandits".

Since telephone and telex lines to the city are still cut, confirmation of events is hard to come by. The British embassy in Mogadishu has told the Foreign Office that there has been continuous gunfire over the past 24 hours. Rebel troops are reported to have been attacking government forces wherever they can be found, but the government still controls the centre of the city.

A woman who was among a small group of Somali refugees who arrived in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, yesterday, said: "It's heavy, heavy, heavy fighting. You can't sleep. The noise is too much." Another woman added that hundreds of ordinary citizens were fleeing Mogadishu on foot, many of them heading for the town of Afgoye about 20 miles away.

The congress is one of three main rebel groups which have been trying to topple President Siad Barre, who has held power in Somalia since 1969. The three groups are largely tribally based. The United Somali Congress represents the Hawiye of central Somalia, the Somali National Movement the Issak of the north, and the Somali Patriotic Movement the Ogadenis of the south. They have been linked in a loose alliance since August.

The crucial strategic point which the congress claims to hold is the airport, five miles to the south of the city. The group said the French and Italian governments had been in direct touch with it, requesting safe passage for their nationals in Somalia. It also said it held the television station, and dismissed any radio broadcasts which have been heard as coming from a mobile studio. Corroboration that the rebels may control the airport came yesterday with a report from Rome that Somalia had vetoed an Italian plan to send two military aircraft to evacuate hundreds of Westerners, warning that this could start a civil war "of incalculable consequences".

However, British diplomatic sources said it was still not clear who held the airport. There are now fewer than 20 Britons in Mogadishu.

Cambodia resistance steps up pressure

From REUTER IN BANGKOK

CAMBODIA'S largest guerrilla army, the Khmer Rouge, urged its fighters in a new year message to step up their attacks.

The message followed talks in Paris between the Phnom Penh government and the guerrilla alliance opposing it just before Christmas, which failed to agree on key issues of a United Nations plan to end 12 years of civil war.

Accusing the Phnom Penh government and its Vietnamese backers of trying to prolong the conflict, the Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said: "The only alternative is to join hands among the resistance forces and drive the Vietnamese from our country."

The broadcast on Khmer Rouge radio was monitored in Bangkok yesterday. The Khmer Rouge and its two non-communist allies say they are fighting a Vietnamese effort to colonise Cambodia. Hanoi's troops drove the Khmer Rouge from power 12 years ago, ending a reign of terror in which the fanatical communists were responsible for the deaths of at least one million people. The last Vietnamese combat troops withdrew in September 1989.

The Khmer Rouge said its fighters killed or wounded 92 government soldiers in a train ambush on December 24.

Shanty town blaze ignites black anger

From GAVIN BELL IN HOUT BAY

A FEW miles south of Cape Town, man and nature have combined to create the apotheosis of the white South African dream. Clustered around a sheltered cove beneath spectacular mountains, the small fishing port of Hout Bay has become a haven of affluence exemplified by lush green estates and riding schools in the valley and gleaming yachts and sport fishing craft in the harbour.

In a hollow beneath the split-level designer homes yesterday, impoverished blacks were surveying the smouldering ruins of a squatter camp destroyed by a fire which killed four people. The blaze, fanned by strong on-shore winds, swept through the community of more than 100 flimsy cardboard shacks within minutes.

The stark contrast highlights a socio-economic predicament which has become an important political issue in South Africa's transition to a multiracial democracy. Squatter camps which mushroomed in Hout Bay in the past year are the first to encroach on an prime residential sites in a "white" area. Protracted negotiations to relocate them are an indication of an impending battle for land and resources throughout the country.

Local landowners recently gained an eviction order from the Cape Town Supreme Court, which criticised the

police for failing to expel squatters. The white parliament has asked urban planners to survey alternative sites in the hope of avoiding forced removals. Both sides wish to resolve the issue peacefully, but patience is wearing thin.

Tony Snelgar, chairman of a property owners' association, insists that most squatters with no work or family ties in the area must go. "Some of these people are hostile and aggressive and they are obviously politically motivated. We have become the victims of a political strategy."

Sue Garzouzie, who owns a riding school, said: "Until a few months ago I considered myself liberal, but now I feel very antagonistic. I've been robbed five times this year, I'm sick of being jostled in the shops by foul-smelling people, and I don't dare take my children to the beach any more."

In the main camp on wind-swept sand dunes, the squatters' credo is painted on the side of a shack: "Demand housing for the people from the oppressors." Their "comrade chairman", Charlemagne Mguga, aged 25, denies political manoeuvring and says the squatters are prepared to move to any acceptable accommodation. But he is scathing about white attitudes. "They had better come up with a solution soon, because the longer it goes on the worse it will get," he said.



Striking solidarity: workers from Bangladeshi clothing factories staging a street protest in Dhaka yesterday after police fired on striking colleagues on Tuesday, killing one man and wounding several

China's leaders put a brave face on the past

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THOSE brave enough to switch on China's evening television news find their screens fill with surreal images. The prime minister, Li Peng, best known for his part in crushing the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989, is nervously feeding a banana to a baby elephant.

Another time, the camera pans across a small group of people dancing self-consciously to the beat of minority music in front of an admiring crowd; the unhappy dancers are the standing committee of the politburo.

China's leaders are engaged in a public relations campaign, and the problem is simple. How do you send tanks into the centre of Peking to fire on or crush unarmed demonstrators one year, and persuade them that you are the best thing since instant noodles the next?

Everyone knows that sooner or later the people of China will be making choices, and Li Peng and others would really like to avoid meeting the same fate as Nicolae Ceausescu. With assassination in mind, the security surrounding any appearance by top leaders is of paranoid proportions. Identities are checked, lipsticks opened, cameras tested, x-rays directed at bodies, waiters and waitresses vetted.

"Nobody likes sitting next to people like Li Peng at functions," said one man.

"They're afraid they might get blown up along with him."

Television news coverage has looked suspiciously like satire recently. The old men everyone assumes really run the country have appeared, leaving observers wondering whether they are up to running anything. Deng Xiaoping, aged 86, shuffled on film to the ballot box grinning inanely and was pronounced "vigorous" by the newspapers.

Marshal Nie Rongzhen, one of the grand old men of "liberation", and still wielding influence at 91, was also shown doing his democratic duty. But he is now so frail that he sat down as several guiding hands helped him lift his voting slip.

Jiang Zemin, the general secretary of the Communist party, has remained a faceless bureaucrat in the minds of the masses, despite efforts to sell him as the natural successor of Chairman Mao and Deng Xiaoping. "What the people of Peking are asking themselves," said one intellectual, "is whether Jiang Zemin is really stupid, or whether he's just pretending."

Several months ago, the leadership decided that China should also improve its image abroad, but it seems to have had little effect. The government is not prepared to do what is necessary: improve human rights and talk openly to the foreign press.

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The mayor unchained

David Lipsey

Vince Schoemehl is mayor of St Louis, Missouri, and very different from the gold-chained dignitaries of British local authorities. A dynamic 44-year-old, Schoemehl combines the functions here fulfilled by the leader of the council and by its chief executive. A Democrat, he is the political leader of the town. His official goal, to make St Louis "the Switzerland of America", goes down well with a population which identifies Switzerland as a place with lots of money and not much crime. He has been elected three times.

But Schoemehl is also a highly effective manager. Scrupulous about the productivity of public-sector workers, he claims that by tough management he has improved services while keeping taxes down. Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, would like to introduce such a system of mayors here. "I favour paid, directly elected mayors in command, in order to bring local spending under control," he wrote in *The Times* in May. The plan is likely to be received with enthusiasm in his department, where officials have long had similar ambitions.

The relationship between council leaders and chief executives has not been growing any easier. In theory, the leader sets the political direction while the chief executive puts policy into effect. In practice, council leaders are being drawn increasingly into the fine detail of policy. Yet they are not trained for the role, they do not work full-time, are not properly paid. Most are of poor quality. Meanwhile, the chief executive has simultaneously run an enormous business and deal with a politics of labyrinthine complexity. Most could earn more doing less in the private sector, and those who can increasingly do.

Moreover, politics distorts the system. A council leader does not have to worry too much about the electorate: all he needs is the support of a majority of the councillors of his party. These may, of course, be sound burghers, but they may also be ideological zealots of left or right. Some of our greatest local authorities, including Liverpool and some London boroughs, have been led by individuals chosen by people of the way-out views. Local government has thereby been substantially discredited, and the government has been able to get away with reducing its powers.

Directly elected mayors would have mandates of their own. To win and sustain the mandate, they would be impelled to become substantial local politicians, with views and personalities. Electoral turnout would soar; in French mayoral elections the proportion of people who vote is typically twice that in British council elec-

tions. This in turn would make the mayor a more credible representative of the locality against the centre, so helping to halt Whitehall's encroachment on local issues. Of Whitehall on town hall, if the salary were generous, local office could become a real career alternative to national office for budding politicians, and mayors would begin to come from the ranks of the brightest and the best. The prize is a glittering one. But the pitfalls should be understood.

While America boasts Vince Schoemehl, it also nurtured Mayor Daley. The difference between the two can be summed up in a single word: party. In Chicago, party is entirely dominant, as a means of organising political power. The head of the Democratic machine was bound to win; having won, he was bound to dedicate his efforts to consolidating the power of that machine. The deadly symbiosis of politician and party put the interests of Chicago as a whole in a poor second place.

The same thing could happen here. In most towns and cities, the ballot paper would consist of the nominees of the major political parties. Though they would need the votes of the populace, they would be able to solicit them through the workings of the caucus. Ability would not suffice; it would have to be reinforced by a devotion to the party and its favoured causes. The machine could still choose extremists to stand. In many areas, the partisan loyalties of the voters would mean that, once chosen, extremists would probably win. The mayor might be no closer to public opinion than the present council leader.

Such a mayor would, additionally, be free of the checks that restrain the party leader now. He would probably have much more control over town hall appointments, and so have at his disposal a formidable patronage. This could be used to reward party sympathisers, and to ensure their support. The mayor might be restrained by councillors, but they would not enjoy the power they now have to dismiss the leader of the council. There would be a danger of creating political dictatorships.

No one can be certain in advance whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. The wisest course might be an experiment. Mr Heseltine is considering giving the largest towns in country areas an opportunity to establish themselves as free-standing local authorities. Why should he not legislate to test the system of directly elected mayors in these towns, with their freedom from political traditions?

If the experiment went well, it could be extended. If it failed, we would save ourselves from a blunder that might finally have destroyed local government.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

My youngest son began himself a fiancée in the autumn; they are getting married in April. It will be a v. grand wedding with guests from around the world: two from America, one from Hampshire, several from Battersea.

We met and had dinners with my future daughter-in-law's mother and her second husband: one in a restaurant, one at our house, another at theirs.

As her father lives on the Algarve with his second wife, only about an hour and a half's drive from our holiday home, Matt felt the very least we could do was to ask them to lunch. We asked them to lunch. It appears they are to be six: the couple, three of his children, one of hers. They are not bringing the dogs.

"It's a bit much," I said on the evening before the luncheon, "to bring six... I mean to go to lunch and outnumber your hosts."

"They are family," said my wife.

"Not my future daughter-in-law's stepmother's son by a previous marriage is not family," I said.

"Don't quibble," said my wife.

"You are not going to embarrass me in front of my in-laws," said Matthew. It was more of a statement than a question. I said: "Of course not; I am really looking forward to meeting them all, have not been on a blind date for a long time... what are their names again?" We went through the list.

They were due at 12.30. Our Maria was instructed to pass quietly through the sitting room at regular intervals wearing different clothes, so that they might think we employed "staff". Matt had a 200g tin of Iranian caviar, asked me how best to serve this to a party of 11. Raffle it, I advised; give everyone a ticket when they come in and hold a draw when things look as if they are getting sticky — like very soon after their arrival. Matt decided that caviar canapés would be best.

I was allowed to cut the bread and butter it. Matt apportioned the Beluga, eating about a quarter as he ensured that every circle of French bread contained

the same amount as every other one. We then garnished each with a sliver of lemon. As the lemon tree spends Christmas dressed as a fruit salad tree — to please Martha, who is seven — it is quite difficult to find lemons between the bananas, oranges, bunches of grapes and apples suspended from its branches, but I managed.

It was noon. Thirty minutes to lift-off. I asked if it would be all right to wear my Christmas jersey, Matthew — and his sister Emma, who is on Matt's side in serious matters such as this — thought yes, but not my slippers, which look as if I have gone native. I put on shoes, went to the kitchen and poured white wine into the sauce for the fish.

For pudding we were having jelly and baked egg custard, the jelly made with sour cherries soaked in lacy port. I wondered about putting a topping on the custard, translating it into a *journeuse crême brûlée*; didn't. Decided it might give the guests the wrong idea about the sort of family into which their daughter was marrying.

12.20: assembled mulled wine. A litre of syrup had been boiled for an hour with cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, strained through a cloth. I added two litres water, five litres strong local red wine, heated this to just below boiling point and tasted it. Poured in a bottle of Bacardi rum which someone had brought duty-free, not knowing that charter-flight prices are higher than in Portuguese booze shops. Two large jugs of mulled wine were by the sitting room fire.

I briefed the family at 12.30: Maria to answer the front door bell wearing a hat, Matthew and Emma to pour the pre-lunch wine, Martha to offer such caviar canapés as she had not eaten. Any questions?

What are we drinking with the smoked salmon? Mulled wine. And with the bass? Mulled wine.

I thought we were going to make a good impression, said Matthew. We are, I told him, but only have 10 glasses. I shall drink my mulled from a teacup. That should impress them a lot.

Finding a balance after the Gulf war

What will the Middle East be like when the Gulf war ends, after the defeat of Saddam Hussein's Iraq?

It can be safely predicted that the western forces mainly responsible for the victory will soon return home, leaving the affairs of the region in the hands of the states hostile to Saddam: Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Israel. There is only one bond between these states, but it is strong: all have reason to fear a revival of Iraq under a leader dedicated to avenge Saddam the fallen hero. These states know that the western powers are unlikely to intervene again, so if they want to avert the revival of an expansionist Iraq, they must do so themselves.

There are the makings here of a very loose — and tacit — coalition of interests in the region. To speak of a "coalition" that includes powers publicly so hostile to Israel and Syria may seem absurd, but Syria and Israel have achieved tacit understandings before, over Lebanon in the 1970s. They might well do so again, whereby Israel will return the Golan Heights (demilitarised) and allow Syria a free hand in all of Lebanon, subject to a guarantee that the Syrian army will suppress all local militias attempting to carry out

Conor Cruise O'Brien looks beyond the fall of Saddam to unlikely alliances and a role for a people now oppressed

fedayeen attacks on targets in Israel. Any such arrangement would present difficulties, but the difficulties are greater on the Israeli side (because of its democratic politics) than on the side of a Syrian dictator who has crushed all internal opposition.

Such a Syrian-Israeli pact may or may not materialise, but secret dealings between Israel and its neighbours over the future of Iraq are certain. Officially, of course, Israel will have no say in the future of Iraq, but unofficially it cannot be ignored, because Israel has both the greatest incentive and the greatest capacity in the region to prevent Iraq's revival as a major military power.

After the defeat of Saddam, the United Nations is likely to instruct the secretary-general to establish a monitoring body to ensure compliance with Security Council resolutions, including a resolution prohibiting the acquisition by Iraq of weapons of mass destruction. A UN military presence is likely to remain in Iraq, with contingents drawn from Egypt, Syria, Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait and perhaps Turkey. The UN will also be charged with the formation of a small Iraqi army under politically reliable officers, a high proportion of whom are likely to be Kurds.

Iraqi Kurds can look to a brighter future following the fall of Saddam. There is in Syria a precedent which the Iraqi Kurds can contemplate with lively interest. The Alawi minority now dominant in power-base because its minority status, as an occult sect in a Muslim country, commended it to a conquering power, the French. The Iraqi Kurds can hope that a similar process, under UN occupation, will operate to their benefit.

There is the question of elections. For ideological reasons, the Americans are likely to favour the holding of elections in Iraq after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime. But the Arab allies are unlikely to agree, for fear of the contagion of example. But the argument they are likely to use — and which might even turn out

to be true — is that elections in Iraq would return a majority consisting of Saddam's followers. The prospect of a freely elected Iraqi parliament resounding with anti-American rhetoric would be daunting to George Bush, so free elections are not likely to be held. Yet elections of some kind might be held under the supervision of the Arab allies, resulting in the election of politically acceptable persons.

After the Gulf war, as before, the politics of the Middle East will be based on *realpolitik*, but within a framework of new power relations. Show-politics will also continue. The western powers have promised a general conference on the Middle East, once Saddam is defeated, and it will have to take place. The proceedings will resemble those of the annual UN General Assembly debate on the same subject, and will have about as much effect. The only point of such proceedings is to give the Arab participants an international forum in which to be seen and heard saying the kinds of things

about Israel which seem appropriate to mass audiences at home.

In terms of show-politics, the aftermath of the Gulf war is likely to be most unhappy for Israel. To keep its Arab allies happy, and to appear to reward them, America will be obliged to adopt highly unfavourable verbal positions towards Israel. But the underlying realities are much more favourable to Israel than the show-politics will suggest. America must court rulers over Arab populations that are hostile to the West. Those rulers may at any moment be replaced by others who reflect that hostility. The folly of arming Arab dictators has been demonstrated by Saddam Hussein. So America may talk against Israel, but it still needs Israel as the only nation in the region — as distinct from regimes — on which it can count against any future Saddam Hussein who may arise.

The Americans may support resolutions at the conference with which Israel refuses to comply, but they will not exert substantial pressure to force it to do so. Nor do the Arab allies really expect America to do any such thing. The conference will look good throughout the Arab world, and that will be its sole purpose.

Bernard Levin on the chilling message at last coming out of Scarborough

A terminal case of virus

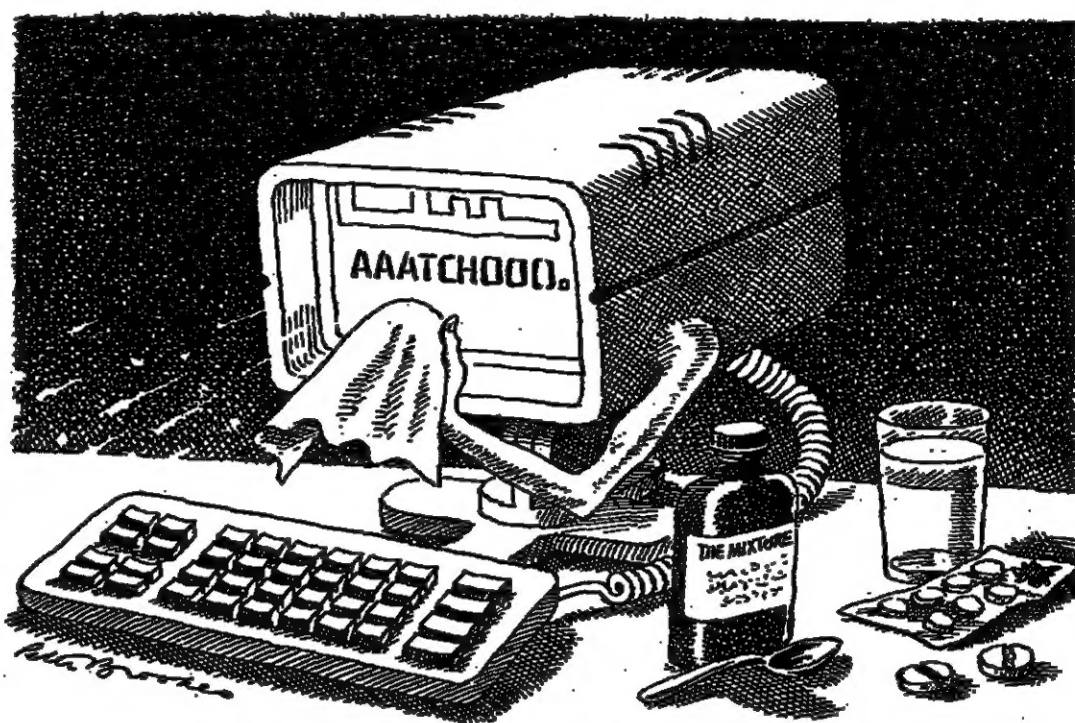
Not long ago, there was startling news from Scarborough, a town which, I imagine, rarely has any news at all to report except that pertaining to the Alan Ayckbourn industry. It now found itself in the headlines, however, because of a fire in the central telephone exchange that resulted in every one of the town's 23,000 lines falling silent. So complete was the failure that fax, telex, BT-linked computers, bank cash-machines and other indispensable aids to modern living were all laid low, as was the four-minute warning of nuclear war. Just suppose that horrid Mr Gorbachev had decided to start the third world war as a diversion from his domestic worries, and had picked Scarborough for the first bang.

As all the world knows, the British are at their best in adversity: some say we actually enjoy adversity. The Mayor and Corporation required to the top of the highest hill in the vicinity, whence they could send and receive instructions and information by two-way radio circuits and mobile phones (ha! I'll bet the jeering at yuppies stopped abruptly); volunteers were enrolled as runners, carrying messages (possibly in cleft sticks); the emergency services posted their members at a network of sites, simultaneously spreading the vital knowledge of their whereabouts, also by radio; and good fun it must have been.

When the worst was over, Scarborough's chief executive, summing up the catastrophe, said words which were obvious, but which, on reflection, I find disquieting. I shall endeavour to spread that disquiet today.

"It is amazing how you come to rely on a telephone system and take it for granted," he said. "Then something like this happens and you realise just how vulnerable you can become..."

Some years ago there was a fashion, assiduously cultivated by members of CND, for announcing that The End would take place not because of rising tensions on the East-West frontier culminating in



a pre-emptive strike, but because some clown would press the wrong button and get, instead of Radio Two, Armageddon. No amount of explanation of fail-safe systems would persuade them; they could not be weaned away from the satisfaction they would get, just before they went up in flames, from the sea of molten eyeballs they had so long, and with such relief, predicted.

The world will not be blown up by a careless office-cleaner dropping his cigarette ash into the wrong receptacle. But there are portents almost as alarming. Not long ago, a closely-guarded secret known only at the highest levels of our banks leaked out, that "hackers" had penetrated to the innermost regions of the banking system and that in some cases had been bought off with substantial sums, or even hired as consultants on the ancient principle of set a thief to catch a thief.

I have never wavered in my conviction that the Act of Parliament which made hacking a

criminal offence, promoted and steered through Parliament by Mrs Emma Nicholson, was an absurdity; it reminded me of a similar item of legislation from some years back prohibiting anyone, under penalty, to carry a flick-knife. The idea presumably being that this, by a kind of osmosis, would dissuade people from sticking any knives at all in one another. It had not the slightest effect, and nor will Mrs Nicholson's measure.

If you put the bank hackers and the Scarborough disaster together you get a very nasty sandwich; if you try to muffle the taste with mustard you will find yourself up against the recent true story of the Californian computer expert who was working on defence systems and found a "virus" in the machine, and in seeking to destroy it found, to his horror, that it had turned into a hydra: the more heads he cut off, the more the Thing was spreading.

Let me leap to a phenomenon much simpler, more homely and

easily comprehended. Generations of children are growing up unable to do any mathematical exercise unless with an electronic calculator, though the children I am thinking of can use it to do the most complex figuring.

Well, you might say, if they can do their homework with a calculator, and it is not against the rules, why worry? Because you have to extrapolate only a very little to get from the playing-card sized calculator to the computer, and there you must worry very seriously. The screen on which I am "writing" these words sometimes flashes a message reading "System going down", whereupon the screen goes blank for some time; eventually, it says "Stitch", and shortly afterwards the screen comes to life again. Because I have doubtless pressed the wrong button, or the right button at the wrong time, it is likely that my electronic words have vanished into a mysterious limbo, never to be seen again. Even were I not a technological imbecile, I would

see in so domestic and unalarming an event a truly terrible portent.

Not long ago someone who knew what he was talking about said that if all computer systems were simultaneously abolished, the number of people immediately needed — literally the same hour — with exceptionally high skills in calculation, business, defence, finance, medicine, banking, traffic flows, flying, newspapers, communications of all kinds and a thousand items more, would be at least 100 million in Western Europe alone.

Science-fiction? Put like that, of course. But now add the criminal element, intent upon gain, together with the prankster, the anarchist, the madman, the aggressor and the butterfly-fingers (me), and it ceases abruptly and unpleasantly to be anything but plainly possible. We already know that computer viruses can and do reproduce themselves; I dare say that Dutch elms thought they were immune from disease, and that if some of their number caught it there would still be plenty of them to thrive and reproduce themselves. Where is the Dutch elm now? Then who will be so bold as to say that the world's computer systems and networks could never succumb to a kind of technological phylloxera?

Oh, we know the answer we would get from those in authority: there is nothing to worry about, because there are alternative back-up systems and networks ready to take over in a nanosecond. Well, yes; but they are computer back-up systems and networks themselves, and they must be heir to all the ills of their brothers.

I cannot be the first man to speculate in this fashion. What I find alarming is that there seems to be no serious literature on the subject, and no serious discussion of any kind on it either. It is all very well to start singing "We'll all go together when we go", and no doubt it is true. But is it not time that somebody at least endowed a university chair in Technological Disaster Studies?

Consulting the backseat driver

Six weeks after her resignation, Mrs Thatcher has received heartening confirmation that she is still one of the most influential figures on the international stage. On Christmas Eve, only 48 hours after John Major returned from his visit to Washington, President Bush telephoned her at her London home.

A Thatcher aide yesterday declined to divulge any details of the conversation, but there seems little doubt that Bush, grimly pondering Saddam Hussein's refusal to get out of Kuwait, put through the call not just to wish the Thatchers a merry Christmas but to discuss with his old ally his options for war or peace.

Having won international admiration for ejecting the Argentines from the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher was a pillar of strength to Bush when the Gulf crisis erupted. She will undoubtedly have stiffened his backbone and given him the encouragement he needed to face down the growing clamour of the "no-war" lobby in Congress and the American media.

A White House source, while declining to say how long the conversation lasted, said: "I think you can safely assume that the subject of the Gulf came up. The president came to rely heavily on Mrs Thatcher's judgment. They became very close."

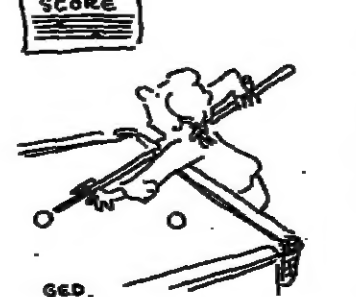
On her resignation Bush was one of the first to telephone her. And when Mrs Thatcher attended a farewell party at Tory Central Office, she told staff: "He [George Bush] won't fatter, and I shan't fatter. I shall not be pulling the levers, but I shall be a very good backseat driver."

Despite the incessant publicity since his release just under a year ago, Nelson Mandela remains an unknown quantity to many of his fellow countrymen. A survey by a research team from Rhodes University in rural areas of the eastern Cape, where Mandela was born and brought up and which is regarded as an ANC stronghold, found that 60 per cent of blacks did not know who he is. Another study found urban black children better informed, but confused by all those slogans. Some believe his first name is Viva, others that it is Release.

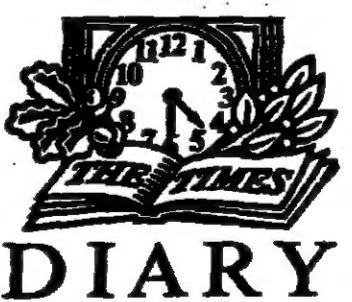
For K read cue

The bicentenary this year of Mozart's death has triggered a debate about his artistry — on the billiard table. Generations before the invention of snooker, he was renowned for his skill at *carom*, a continental version of billiards without the pockets. But was he the best player in Europe?

"He was recognised as being the



finest player of his day," claims Jed Ford, the organiser of an exhibition this month at the Barbican in London — with *carom* practitioners dressed in period costume — to celebrate Mozart's



skill with a cue. "That's a pretty wild claim," counters H.C. Robbins Landon, author of three books about Mozart. "All we know is that he delighted in a game of billiards, usually with his wife Constanza. Though Michael Kelly, who sang in *The Marriage of Figaro* in Vienna in 1786, recalled in his memoirs that Mozart always beat him."

Robbins Landon also dismisses the belief that Mozart composed on his billiard table. "He didn't," he wrote, "between games. It relaxed him." So fond was Mozart of *carom* that he refused to sell his table when facing bankruptcy towards the end of his life. When he died, the billiard table was one of the two most valuable items listed among his possessions. The other, of course, was his piano.

Dropped

A Tory backbencher Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes prepares to pack his khaki for active service in the Gulf, his colleague Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury and a former para-troop captain, is annoyed that he will not be going along too. Brazier, 37, who has championed a number of servicemen's causes since he was elected in 1987,

is a member of the Home Service Force, a latterday Dad's Army, and spends five weekends a year keeping his hand, and nerve, in. Some members of the force took part in the air-drop on Suez in 1956, which gives an indication of their age span.

Unfortunately, the Home Service Force is called to the colours only if an attack on the British mainland seems imminent. For that reason Brazier was denied the chance of action in the Falklands. Now all he can do to help the Gulf war effort is to make the right sort of noises at Westminster.

Guinness Fast Aviation, of which Nigel Lawson is a director, has just landed a £50 million deal to supply the Mongolian state airline with its first western aircraft. The Irish-based leasing firm is to provide two Boeing 757s that will complement the current fleet of Russian turbo-props. So little is known about the availability of normal comforts in the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator, that GPA lawyer Joe Clerklin, sent to rubber-stamp the deal, took no chances. "My luggage included two and a half pounds of Irish smoked salmon, a fish-filleting knife and plenty of brown bread," he says.

The angel speaks

Martine Dietrich devotees have been surprised by the uncharacteristic public appeal from the reclusive star, urging that the huge Berlin film studios where she made *The Blue Angel* should be saved. Propped up financially by the communists for 40 years, the studios face closure following German reunification. Biographies of the 89-year-old actress say she was contemptuous of *The Blue Angel*, which made

her a star 60 years ago, and had even less time for her native Germany. In a television interview with Maximilian Schell three years ago, Dietrich tried to deny the existence of 12 silent movies she made at the studios.

When pressed by Schell about the films, she said: "I had only tiny bits parts, you cannot call those films can you? The silents, that is all rubbish."

Terry Sanderson, who has followed Dietrich's career closely, says: "In 1989, in her autobiography *My Life*, she even badmouthed *Blue Angel*. She says the first film she enjoyed was *The Scarlet Empress*, but that was made in the US." While Dietrich expressed affection for her time at the studios, in her book *Martine ABC*, she wrote: "The tears I cried for Germany have dried up. I have wiped my face."

Senior squatter

Lord Denning, tireless defender of his local footpaths, has notched his biggest victory to date against the developers and bureaucrats. Three years ago, when his old primary school in Whitchurch, Hampshire, was threatened with demolition for a long dispute about the ownership, he changed the locks, claimed squatters' rights, saying possession was nine tenths of the law, and paid for essential maintenance work. He then asked the town council to become trustees of the building and apply for planning consent to turn it into a community centre. The council agreed, and approval has just been given. "I am very pleased," says the school's most illustrious former pupil, still ready to do battle on behalf of his fellow townsmen at the age of 92.



THE ARAB DIMENSION

As King Husain of Jordan arrived in London last night to begin a final round of consultations with European leaders at Downing Street today, the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria and Libya were meeting in Cairo to prepare for a tripartite summit of their heads of state. Whether Western governments expect anything useful to come of Arab summits on the eve of Armageddon depends on how seriously they take the pretensions of Middle Eastern rulers to place their ideal of pan-Arabic cultural and religious unity above the political interests of individual states. The dire consequences of the invasion of Kuwait have exposed to the world the hollowness of those pretensions. Yet these Arab attempts to undo Iraqi mischief may not have been wholly in vain.

The mirage of an "Arab solution" to the confrontation in the Gulf has shimmered on the horizon several times since last August. Each time a common Arab position towards the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait began to coalesce. Iraq's influence made itself felt. The illusion of Arab unity has been dispelled successively by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's obeisances to Baghdad; by Jordan's resistance to sanctions; by Yemen's dissenting voice in the UN Security Council; and by hostility to the American presence among Libyans, Iraqis and Jordanians.

President Saddam Hussein himself has reinforced discord with his propaganda. Only this week Saddam turned Nasser's heritage of pan-Arab rhetoric against the Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, and repeated earlier calls for a holy war against the "Americans and Zionists". While pro-Western Arab leaders can and do ignore these attempts to subvert their resistance to Iraq, their populations may be more gullible.

Most awkward of all is the position of Jordan, which has common borders with both Iraq and Israel. King Husain may be stronger than was suggested by earlier reports of his seemingly precarious hold on power, an impression which was fixed in Western public opinion last August and which for tactical reasons the king has not discouraged. King Husain would dearly like to stay neutral during a war in which his heavily-armed neighbours may both be involved, to say nothing of the Palestinians who make up the majority of his subjects.

But pressure on the king to use his country to be used by Iraq during hostilities

is already great. Jordan, the Belgium of the Middle East, is always a potential battlefield for stronger powers. King Husain could well suffer the fate of the Belgian King Leopold III, who abdicated in 1951, still unforgiven 11 years after abruptly capitulating to Hitler in May 1940 in what he believed were Belgium's best interests. John Major should tell his guest today that Britain, Jordan's best friend in the West, cannot promise to stand by the Hashemite kingdom if its neutrality proves to be a sham – even in the event of Israeli involvement in a Gulf war.

The three powers now meeting in Cairo reflect the disarray of the Arab peoples. President Mubarak of Egypt is staunchly pro-American and firmly anti-Iraqi. President Assad of Syria is anti-American but even more anti-Iraqi; he has sent forces to Saudi Arabia. Colonel Gaddafi of Libya is strongly anti-American, but disapproves of Saddam's annexation on pragmatic grounds: if Iraq gained control of the oil-producing Gulf states, Libya too would be drawn into Saddam's orbit.

Any compromise solution on which these three governments might agree would also have to satisfy the security concerns of the Gulf states, including the Kuwaitis. That rules out any scheme along the lines of King Husain's abortive "solution" last August: simultaneous Iraqi and allied withdrawals from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia respectively.

With less than a fortnight left, the room for manoeuvre has shrunk so far that it is hard to conceive of any practical formula which an Arab summit might adopt to break the deadlock. Even discounting the personal animosity between Saddam and his counterparts in Egypt and Syria, the Iraqi dictator has given no sign of greater readiness to yield to his fellow Muslims than to Christians or Jews. Rather, he despises them even more.

Even so, this laborious groping towards the elusive vision of an indigenous solution has been a valuable exercise. A fratricidal war might have been too frightful for many Arabs to contemplate, had they not first exhausted all their means of preventing it. The many Westerners who see little cause why their fathers and sons should die for Kuwait are entitled to expect the utmost exertions for peace from their Arab allies. After his defeat, if not before, Saddam will regret treating other Arabs with contempt. It is not too late for him to relent.

ONE OVER THE EIGHT

Yesterday's statistics purporting to show a fall in drunken driving over Christmas tell us as little about those who drink and drive as reported crime statistics tell us about criminals. Where the ratio of those arrested to those tested rose, are there more drunk drivers or have the police become better at spotting them? Where the ratio has fallen, are fewer people driving drunk? Or are the police driving more carefully? Or are the police's methods so good that they catch most of the drunks anyway, and increasing the number they test serves only to inconvenience the sober?

The figures rise and the figures fall. Either way, they never silence the demands of those who campaign against drunk driving for random breath-testing. This is understandable, since drunks on the road take a terrible toll not only of themselves, but of the innocent too. However, the police admit that they can already stop pretty well anyone that they want to. All they need is a suspicion that the driver might be drunk, and the guilty driver will find it hard to prove that they had none.

The police do target those most likely to be guilty. These latest figures show an arrest rate of between 3 per cent and 36 per cent, depending on the region. By contrast, the Transport and Road Research Laboratory conducts "random" tests for research purposes (not that random, since it checks on roads near pubs around closing time on weekends) and it finds only 1.7 per cent over the limit. Moreover, the police figures also show that they test a large number of innocent drivers as it is. If the success rate

fell still lower, as it would with truly random testing, the public might start to question whether the whole exercise was worth the candle.

For, even without random testing, public attitudes towards drinking and driving have been changing. A recent Gallup survey for the Legal & General insurance company found 84 per cent saying that government advertising had made them think twice about drinking and driving. No longer is it considered unbecoming to turn down alcohol in favour of a soft drink in other people's homes. And the increasing prevalence of low-alcohol and non-alcoholic lager has given pub-goers a less conspicuous alternative to the alcoholic brew. Fewer people seem to boast about drinking and driving; like smoking, the vice is increasingly frowned upon. This change is borne out in figures of those killed and seriously injured in drink-drive accidents: they are down by 40 per cent since 1979.

More people now admit that drunk driving is a problem; and a problem not just for others but for themselves. Many then change their behaviour. But what of the hard core, those who routinely drink and drive? The ones who are never caught are probably lesser menaces since they must have avoided accidents and motoring offences after which they would be breathalysed. Those who are caught and refuse to change their ways will be unmoved by random testing. These recidivists should be harshly treated. The judges should not hesitate to jail repeated offenders, nor those who drive when, by any standards, they are sloshed.

FULL TIME IN THE HOUSE

As Britain returned to work yesterday, members of Parliament – still on holiday – are having a happy new year. From Tuesday, their pay rose by 8.5 per cent. At a time when Conservative MPs, in government and out of it, are exhorting employees to take lower pay rises, an increase of £43 a week is a questionable contribution to the declared fight against inflation. Though the increase is less than the current rate of retail price rises, how MPs are paid – like the question of the hours they work – is still not correctly settled, and still runs counter to proper parliamentary democracy.

In the early 1980s, MPs sought to take their salaries out of the political arena – and their salaries away from public scrutiny – by linking their pay to the civil service. This gives MPs 89 per cent of the grade maximum for a grade 6 civil servant (the old maximum for a grade 6 civil servant) after this week's increase, £28,970.

That is not all. In addition, MPs can claim a formidable range of allowances: up to £24,903 for office, secretarial and research costs; duties which are often carried out by spouses; up to £10,138 in return journeys for MPs, spouses and families to Westminster; MPs' spouses and families to Westminster; for the largest cars. With index-linked, for their second homes, this package allows many MPs to double their household's income.

Their pay, too, has more than just kept

earnings for non-manual employees rose by 58 per cent from 1985 to 1990. The pre-allowances parliamentary pay alone of MPs rose in the same period by 140 per cent. MPs claim in reply that no one else would work as they do: long hours, late nights, an open-ended availability and obligation to the voters. Yet as every constituency selection shows, there is no shortage of people willing to take the job. Pay and conditions do nothing to deter the long queue of hopefuls eager to get their hands on the greasy pole.

MPs are paid too much for a part-time job. The ludicrous hours of the House of Commons are designed to allow MPs to dabble in the law, journalism, farming or business. Many MPs now have "consultancies" which require little work other than active loyalty in parliament to their interest-group paymasters.

But many MPs claim privately that to do their job at current pay levels, they have to take other work. If they were to be stripped of this possibility by the necessary change in their hours of work, then they would be paid far too little – two-thirds of the going rate in Germany, half the salaries of members of the US House of Representatives.

If John Major supports the reform of MPs' hours, he should support a reform of their pay too, perhaps by linking their salary to that of a higher-grade civil servant. Paying them for doing a full-time job, and only one full-time job, would focus MPs on their work, strengthen the Commons and perform a real service for parliamentary democracy.

A lack of leadership at Lambeth?

From the Dean of Canterbury

Sir, George Hill ("Dangers of the Lambeth vacuum", December 27) seems eager that the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury should be at work without delay.

It is worth pondering that the archbishop who changed both England and the Church of England most, the seventh-century Theodore of Tarsus, became archbishop after a five-year interregnum. Perhaps this more leisurely approach shows why the office of archbishop is older than that of monarch or, indeed, prime minister.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. SIMPSON,
The Deanery, Canterbury, Kent.
December 27.

From the Reverend Edwin Barnes

Sir, Edward Carpenter, writing of Archbishop Randall Davidson, said: "He had almost come to think that the Church of England would fold up without his continuing presence at Lambeth. In fact, as he indulged such hubris – and he was not that sort of man – it was the penalty of living too long in the centre and too briefly at the circumference. The Church of England has the knack of surviving sometimes in spite of its official leadership."

These wise words need emphasising in the light of the pressure on Dr Runcie to depart, and on Dr Carey to assume the role. There is no proper comparison with either the monarchy or the papacy. Far from the changeover being perversely slow, the manner and timing of George Carey's enthronement says something very important about the Church of England.

First, the Church of England is not a reflection of parliament, however much the inventors of synodical government have tried to make it so. It is divided into two provinces, each with its own primate and metropolitan. More important still, neither primate has any real authority except in his own diocese. Until the latter part of the last century, archbishops of Canterbury were simply the successive bishops of a small English rural diocese.

Even less is the Church of England established on a papal

model. So far as the English church is concerned, his Holiness John Paul II is bishop of Rome; and similarly Robert Runcie is bishop of Canterbury, and John Habgood bishop of York. Because of Rome's ecclesiastical empire, there is a great to-do whenever a new pope is to be elected.

Despite the growth of the "Anglican Communion", there are no great flutters in the USA or Canada when Canterbury's new incumbent is announced. Nor should there be. At the last Lambeth Conference, the American bishops made it quite clear that whatever any other member of the Anglican Communion thought about, for instance, their proposal to admit women to the episcopate, they would go ahead; and if that objector were the Archbishop of Canterbury, so much the worse for him.

Long may the Church of England delay the enthronement. May Dr Carey be given just a little longer for decent anonymity. The church will continue, and might even begin to teach the pundits that the instant opinion, the immediate quote, is not the measure of leadership, nor what either the church or the country needs for its lasting good.

Yours etc.,
EDWIN BARNES (Principal),
St Stephen's House,
16 Marston Street, Oxford.
December 29.

From Dr Graham Speake

Sir, The six-week vacuum at Lambeth is indeed the twinkling of an eye when compared with what is customary among the parochial clergy. Here a vacancy is not usually even advertised until it has physically occurred, frequently resulting in an interregnum of a year or more.

Far from anything to do with decorum or repairs to the personage, I was always given to understand that the most deliberate policy to save on stipends. In my experience as a churchwarden, parishes generally get along quite nicely without an incumbent.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM SPEAKE,
Ironstone Farmhouse, Milton,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
December 28.

Crime surveys

From Professor Paul Rock

Sir, Your leader entitled "Criminal mischief" (December 20) contains much good sense and am sure that it will be applauded by many of those teaching and conducting research in criminology in this country. In particular, you write of the value of the "more reliable Home Office annual crime survey" as a corrective to police-recorded criminal statistics.

The "annual survey" is actually not annual at all. Only three surveys have actually been conducted since 1982 and plans for another sweep in 1991 were rejected in the recent public expenditure round.

It is, indeed, unfortunate that such surveys cannot be annual here as they are elsewhere. Individually they contain invaluable information about victimisation and its effects, and policy-making and thinking about crime in this country have

been quite transformed in consequence.

We now know much more about the distribution and timing of crimes and about what makes certain groups vulnerable. Collectively, surveys provide information on trends over time, affording more intelligent assessments of general and specific movements in offending.

Surveys are expensive, and they are currently funded out of the Home Office Research and Planning Unit's own budget. What is spent on the crime surveys cannot be spent on other research. It would be of great practical, political and academic value to establish an "annual survey" on an independent and secure financial footing.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ROCK,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Department of Sociology,
Houghton Street, WC2.
December 20.

Road congestion

From Mrs K. Hanratty

Sir, Mr J. Robinson (December 14) suggests that in order to ease congestion on motorways the maximum speed limit should be increased to 90mph because the current 70mph "is no longer relevant to modern vehicle design and safety requirements".

A more relevant factor, surely, is driver ability at such speeds. How many drivers are truly competent at 70mph in an emergency situation? Correct vehicle distances are rarely observed – a major contribution to motorway pile-ups – and the lesser driver still receives no motorway experience until he or she has passed their test.

Furthermore, if the speed limit were to be increased to 90mph, 35 per cent of motorway drivers would automatically increase their top speeds to 110mph. Motorway bunching and congestion is often caused by these drivers trying to push past law-abiding drivers observing the correct speed limit.

Raising the limit to 90mph would simply result in the same amount of congestion but at a vastly increased speed.

Yours faithfully,
K. HANRATTY,
21 Kingsdown Close,
Howard's Lane,
Putney, SW15.

Chronic fatigue

From Dr Charles Shepherd

Sir, Jeremy Laurence's review of chronic fatigue syndromes ("Health", December 20) largely dismisses the concept of a persisting viral infection.

Over the past ten years I have seen numerous cases of previously very fit young adults being dramatically (and permanently) reduced to well below 50 per cent of their "normal self" following a clear-cut viral illness.

Virologists and neurologists now fully accept that these infections are capable of entering, persisting and even multiplying within the brain following such an attack.

The big problem with the now fashionable psychological explanation of depression plus inactivity leading to self-perpetuating ill health is that many of these patients are not depressed and inactivity is a prac-

Insurance anomaly

From Mr Anthony Escott

Sir, From the age of 15 I worked in various UK government departments and from the age of 25 for the BBC from which, in common with staff reaching the age of 60, I was forced to retire.

My wife and I decided to spend our retirement in Italy, where we now live. The UK Department of Social Security (DSS) has now excluded us from publicly-funded medical treatment within the EC since my entitlement to UK sickness benefit has run out. I am forced to take out private medical insurance until the age of 65, when I will again be accepted by the DSS.

Had I kept my UK address I would, as a retired person over the age of 60, not have needed to pay a penny more national insurance. I have offered to pay voluntary

Green Christmas

From Professor Emeritus G. W. Dimbleby

Sir, Major-General Tony Richardson (December 29), in commending the buying of real Christmas trees on environmental grounds, omits the final factor in the equation. A tree only absorbs carbon dioxide as long as it is alive. Virtually all these bought are doomed for the bonfire or the rubbish heap, both of which

imply that "fatigue" is a stigmatising symptom. My point was that "depression" is a more stigmatising condition than "myalgic encephalomyelitis" (ME). Therefore some patients and even doctors prefer the latter label with its implication of organic pathology. The price patients may pay for the wrong diagnosis is needless misery, suffering and even suicide.

The chronic fatigue syndrome and depressive illness affect both the mind and the body. It is unwise to call either of these conditions organic or psychological; they are both and require treatment of both.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. WHITE,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
Department of Psychological Medicine,
William Harvey House,
West Smithfield, EC1.
January 2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (071) 782 5046.

Medical care of disturbed prisoners

From Dr R. W. K. Reeves

Sir, In his recent report on Brixton prison (details, December 14) Judge Tummie refers to the large number of mentally disturbed prisoners. He goes on to mention the use of Section 48 of the Mental Health Act, which allows the transfer of the mentally ill from prison to psychiatric hospital, but then points out the reluctance of some NHS hospitals to take these prisoners.

Last week, here in Bristol, seven prisoners were transferred from the city's two prisons to appropriate psychiatric hospitals. Whilst this is an exceptional number, it demonstrates that here at least the Mental Health Act is being used to good purpose. Two patients went to special hospital, two went to local secure unit. The remaining three went to ordinary admission wards in Gloucester, Sussex and Bristol. The applications were made by the full-time medical officers at Bristol and the visiting forensic psychiatrists.

At Bristol, we take the view that if the patient is ill and needs a hospital bed, we make the Section 48 application first. Then, if there is a reluctance on the part of the hospital

to accept, the Home Office are already involved and can step in at a higher level to ensure that transfer takes place. Nursing staff from the receiving hospital need to assess the patient; in the case of one of the patients last week, they arrived within 40 minutes of receiving the phone call.

The local secure unit has only 30 beds for a large catchment area and is permanently at risk of being silted up. A vigorous campaign is maintained to remind open-door hospitals of their need to retain both medium and long-stay rehabilitation beds for those ready to leave the unit.

I accept that in London finding out who is responsible for the ill prisoner may present difficulties. Here in Bristol, however, it seems that with good co-operation between the prison medical service and the visiting consultant forensic psychiatrist we can produce the desired results.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. K. REEVES (Consultant forensic psychiatrist),
Fromside Clinic,
Blackberry Hill,
Stapleton, Bristol, Avon.
December 24.

Frigate replacement

From Rear-Admiral G. G. W. Marsh

Sir, As the international project manager of the NFR90 frigate programme until its termination last January, I must take issue with your report (December 26) of the reasons for the demise of the programme.

It is not true that "... the project fell apart when none of the nations could agree on the hull design and weapons fit". Professional men and women from navies, government services and industries collectively put in over 1,000 man-years of effort to achieve a remarkable record of harmony and consensus. The nations involved (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, UK and USA) achieved complete agreement in specifying a common set of operational requirements.

The general purpose design which emerged from the project definition studies is the prescriptive response to the maritime needs of all nations involved in peacekeeping opera-

tions on the high seas in the post-cold-war era, and it is no coincidence that the Royal Navy's new frigate programme replicates all the salient features of the NFR90.

NFR90 demonstrated that large-scale procurement of a common-design frigate through international collaboration has the potential to yield massive savings in the long term, together with substantial benefits in inter-operability. The reasons the project failed had more to do with political conceptions and misconceptions than with technical difficulties or the inability of the eight naval staffs to agree.

International co-operation in defence procurement, as in other matters, must be the way ahead in the future: the experience of NFR90 showed that given clear political commitment, complex large-scale programmes are entirely feasible.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFF MARSH,
7 Barton Orchard,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.
December 28.

Cemetery under threat

From Mr Nicholas J. Reed

Sir, It is good to read (report, December 27) that a friends' group will shortly be assisting restoration of monuments at Kensal Green cemetery. I cannot agree, however, with the statement that the cemetery "has the finest open-air collection of Victorian memorial sculpture in England". West Norwood cemetery has 44 listed tombs, including those to Tate of the Tate Gallery, Doublon of Doublon Pottery, Dr Marsden, founder of the Marsden and Royal Free hospitals, and William Burgess, the architect of Cardiff Castle.

Unlisted memorials include those to Mrs Beeson, Baron Reuter, founder of the news agency, Mr Edgar of Swan and Edgar, and Mr Mappin of Mappin & Webb. Three of England's finest Victorian watercolourists, David Roberts,

David Cox and Samuel Prout also lie there.

Sadly, all these unlisted tombs are in danger under Lambeth Council's continuing policy of clearance. Bulldozers may be sent to work daily, and of the 140 graves whose occupants appear in the Dictionary of National Biography, little more than half now remain. This despite the whole cemetery being a conservation area, which bears out your plea for the strengthening of such legislation in your leading article (December 27).

While Norwood may surpass Kensal Green at the moment, in a year's time Kensal Green may indeed stand unchallenged.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS REED (Chairman, Friends of West Norwood Cemetery),
26 Hichison Road,
Peckham Rye, SE15.

Avebury preserved

From the President of the Prehistoric Society

Sir, Michael Heseltine's refusal of planning permission for a £7 million hotel complex at Avebury (report, December 20) is a decision that is most welcome and of great significance. It has averted the desecration – strenuously opposed by this society at the public enquiry – of one of Britain's most important complexes of prehistoric monuments (designated in 1987 as a World Heritage site) and, as your report makes clear, it has established a crucial precedent by preferring physical preservation "in situ" to preservation by record.

It is too late for the new Minister of Transport to follow this excellent example and reverse the deplorable decision of his predecessor, who sanctioned the partial destruction of an ancient downland landscape and two scheduled ancient monuments on Twyford Down by choosing a deep cutting, instead of a tunnel, for the M3 link past Winchester?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HARRIS, President,
Prehistoric Society,
Institute of Archaeology,
University College London,
31-34 Gordon Square, WC1.

Classical top ten

From Mr David Chesterman

Sir, Analysis of all symphonies played during 1990 in London's Royal Albert, Royal Festival, Barbican and Queen Elizabeth halls and at St John's, Smith Square shows that Beethoven (53%) has, for only the third time in 40 years, been beaten by Mozart (56%).

Brahms, 27, has had an excellent year, up from tenth place to third. Mahler, 20%, (two adagios from No. 10) is followed by Haydn and Schubert with 20 apiece. Shostakovich is well established with 18, while Sibelius, 14, Tchaikovsky, 13, and Bruckner, 12, complete the top ten. For the first time Dvorak, 11%, is not included.

In this, Mozart's bicentenary year, Beethoven has no chance of taking revenge on his rival.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CHESTERMAN,
15 Shire Lane,
Chorleywood, Hertfordshire.
January 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM

January 1: The Lady Elton has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

January 2: Sir Julian Loyd was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

By command of The Queen,

the Viscount Astor (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the arrival of the King and Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of the Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

January 1: Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 84; Mr David Attenborough, conductor, 47; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, 93; John Bamber, former principal, Lincoln College, Oxford, 70; Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 63; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 75; Mr Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, 53; Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general, OFSTED, 52; Lord Colyton, 89; Mr Fran Cotton, rugby player, 43; Sir Alastair Forbes, former president, Court of Appeal, Gibraltar, 83; Mr Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord Lieutenant of Oxford, 66; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 67; Sir Errington Keville, former chairman, General Council of British Shipping, 90; Miss Anya Lindman, ballerina, 38; Sir Carol Mauser, former M.P., 75; Mr Siegmund Nissel, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 69; Sir John Riddell, royal equerry, 57; Mr R.R. Steedman, architect, 62; Mr John Thaw, actor, 49; Mr David Vine, sports commentator, 35; Professor T.S. Willan, economic historian, 81.

Lancing College

Last term at Lancing College begins on Wednesday, January 9. The Rev Ian Forrester takes up his appointment as Chaplain. The Captain of School is Duncan Guthrie and Lisa O'Brien. Benjamin Britten's *Saint Nicolas* will be performed on Friday, March 1. Confirmation will be administered by the Provost, the Right Rev. Christopher Luxmoore, on Sunday, March 17. Half term is from February 15 to 19 and term ends on Friday, March 22. The Lancing Club dinner dance will take place at the College on Saturday, April 13. The guest speaker will be Mr I.D.S. Beer.

Church news

Withdrawal of acceptance
The Rev Stephen Pye, Vicar, Wighton, diocese of Blackburn, has withdrawn his acceptance of his appointment as Priest-in-charge, Hayton, diocese of Carlisle.

Other appointment

Mr Jeffrey Turnbull, Assistant Education Officer of Kirkcaldy Borough Council, is Director of Education, diocese of Chester.

Canoe on show

A dug-out, flat-bottomed canoe, one of the oldest Bronze Age relics found in Scotland, is to be housed in Dumfries museum. It was found in the Locher Moss area near the town seven years ago and has since been stored in a water tank. Nithsdale district council is to give £5,000 to treat the canoe to make it available for public viewing.

Sir Arthur Davies

A memorial service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Arthur Davies, lately Secretary-General Emeritus of the World Meteorological Organization, will be held at St Clement Danes Church, Strand, London, W2, on Friday, January 18, 1991, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.N. Adam and Miss H.J. Gooch
The engagement is announced between Tom, son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Adam, of Norwich, Norfolk, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Gooch, of Albourne, West Sussex.

Mr J.M. Crocker and Miss N.A. May
The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.G. Crocker, of Farnham, Surrey, and Hilda, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.F.P. May, of Seagr, Wiltshire.

Mr T. Fisher and Miss S.G. Harrison
The engagement is announced between Thomas, youngest son of Mr A. J. Fisher, of Birmingham, and Susan Gail, A.M. Fisher, and Susan Gail, A.M. Fisher, of Birmingham.

Mr R.C. Grassly and Miss J.L. Walker
The engagement is announced between Richard Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Grassly, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Jennifer Levering, daughter of Professor Geoffrey Walker, presently of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Mrs Sally Walker, of Parsons Green, London.

Mr J.A. Sasse and Miss S.E.J. Waters
The engagement is announced between Susan, youngest son of Mr and Mrs C. Sasse, of Helmsley, North Yorkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Waters, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Mr C.A. Sasse and Miss C.G.E. Archer
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Sasse, of Umister, Somerset, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Archer, of Worth, Sussex.

Mr A.M. Thompson and Miss J.M. Gill
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Edward Thompson, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Judy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Edmund Gill, of Cobham, Surrey.

Marriages

The Hon Robin Dixon and Mrs M. Raine
The marriage took place on Wednesday, December 19, in London, of the Hon Robin Dixon and Mrs Margaret Raine.

Mr G. de Botton and the Hon Mrs J. Green
The marriage took place in London, on December 17, of Mr G. de Botton and the Hon Mrs Janet Green.

Sir Hugh Leggett and Miss C.G. Tregozing
The marriage took place yesterday in London between Sir Hugh Leggett and Miss Gaynor Tregozing.

OBITUARIES

SIR SYDNEY CAINE

Sir Sydney Caine, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science 1957-67 and former civil servant, died yesterday at the age of 88. He was born on June 27, 1902.

SYDNEY Caine had a remarkable career in two different fields - the civil service and education. He was a public servant for 29 years and rose from the rank of assistant inspector of taxes to that of third secretary in the Treasury in 1952, on his appointment as vice-chancellor of the University of Malaya. He began his second and even more successful career as an educational administrator. To both he brought outstanding qualities - lively intellectual curiosity, sound administrative judgment, a warm heart, and an attractive, almost boyish enthusiasm.

Caine was educated at Harrow County School and the London School of Economics, and became an assistant inspector of taxes in 1923. But after competitions for the administrative civil service were reopened in 1925, he passed into the Colonial Office. There he quickly found his mark, especially in advising on the financial and economic problems which harassed so many colonies during the 1930s. In particular, despite his youth, he established early on a reputation for skill in dealing with the tangled questions affecting sugar: he was secretary to the West Indian Sugar Commission in 1929 and was detached to serve as secretary to the UK Sugar Industry Inquiry (the so-called Greene Committee) in 1934.

Three years later an unusual chance of wider service came when at the age of 35 he was sent to Hong Kong as its financial secretary. By changing the basis of the collection of government revenue there he laid the groundwork for rapid economic progress after the war. He was highly successful in that exacting post, and his experience left him with an abiding love of currency problems and the Far East. He returned to the Colonial Office in 1940, became financial adviser in



1942, and a deputy under-secretary of state in 1947. In the following year he was transferred to the Treasury as a third secretary and then served for three years as head of the UK Treasury and Supply Delegation in Washington.

In his later years as a public servant Caine never quite fulfilled the brilliant promise with which he began. He had a fastidiousness, an intellectual detachment, which made the Whitehall "in-fighting" distasteful to him; he was sceptical about much post-war planning; and when in 1952 the opportunity came for him to return to the Far East as vice-chancellor of the recently founded University of Malaya, he did not hesitate. There he did notable work, with manifest enjoyment, in building up from modest beginnings a new multi-racial university, and he inspired teachers and students alike by his easy approachability and his intellectual enthusiasm.

In 1957 he returned to the London School of Economics, where he had been trained, as its director, in succession to Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders. Though his time there concluded with a flurry of student

demands, a personal request by Caine, as director, to stop their sit-down in protest of the suspension of two student leaders. In a book published in 1969, though sympathetic to student discontent, he adhered to the traditional view that ultimately "character training" merges with mind training, and argued that the most important, if least discussed, change in ideas about the purpose of a university was "the decline in the significance attached to character training". Already he had become chairman of a planning board for an independent university; and he became chairman of fund raising for what eventually became the University of Buckingham.

He was present in his nurturing of new ideas. He was on the committee of Justice which proposed the appointment of an Ombudsman. In 1968, Caine, a former I.T.A. deputy chairman, put forward a plan to revolutionise Britain's television system and mean the end of licence fees. He suggested that all services should be provided through pay-television receivers and financed by viewers on the basis of viewing times and sale of advertising. This has been translated into proposals for subscription television. At the end of the second world war he largely thought up the idea of the Commonwealth Development Corporation, which came into being in 1949.

Throughout his career he maintained a deep interest in, and expert knowledge of, economic questions and became governor of the Reserve Bank of Rhodesia. He was a much loved member both of the Reform Club and of the Political Economy Club (of which he acted as secretary for some time). Caine was appointed a CMG in 1945 and was promoted to KCMG two years later. He was an Honorary LL.D. of the University of Malaya.

He leaves a widow, Elizabeth, and son, Sir Michael Caine, chairman of Booker plc and the deputy chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

GORDON BURROWS

Gordon Burrows, who played a significant role in the early days of Sri Lanka's independence, died on December 21, aged 75. He was born on February 20, 1915.

A MAN of the manse in Northern Ireland, Gordon Burrows was educated at Campbell College, and at Queen's University, Belfast, where he graduated in classics in 1937. After completing a three-year divinity course at Westminster College in Cambridge, he was commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and joined the 1st Battalion in India. Thus began

his affection and respect for Asia which was to play such a role in his life. In the intelligence division of Lord Mountbatten's HQ in Delhi, Kandy and finally in Singapore, he became aware of the gathering forces for independence in India and Ceylon, movements with which he found himself increasingly sympathetic.

After the war, Burrows joined the staff of Trinity College, Kandy, Sri Lanka, where he served as vice-principal and made his home with his wife, Pat. His influence was considerable. He was frequently consulted by some of the earlier leaders of

independent Sri Lanka, and in 1956 he received the unusual award of distinguished citizenship of that country. With his warm and outgoing personality, he loved people for their own sake and had no interest in racial or cultural boundaries.

In 1963 family education commitments obliged him to return to England where he was appointed director of studies and, later, head of the Asia and Pacific department at the Centre for International Briefing at Farnham Castle. The centre had been established with support from the government, industry and the

churches to give residential courses to British men and women going to work abroad.

Burrows declined high office, wrote no books and received few honours, but seldom was a man less loved and admired by people of all ages and races. His endearing personality had a far-reaching impact, in particular on the hundreds of young men who came to know and venerate him during his 17 years at Trinity College in Sri Lanka - including men who now hold positions of importance in Asia.

He leaves his wife, Pat, and their three children.

Teeing-up for a green and pleasant land where the worm forgets the plough

A nationwide survey of the demand for golf is being carried out for the Sports Council by Cobham Resource Consultants, of Edinburgh. The findings for Scotland are to be published this month and for England next year. John Young reports

THE counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex contain fewer than 200 golf courses. More than 100 courses are either under construction or have been given planning approval, and another 114 are the subject of applications or appeals.

These figures, compiled by the eastern region office of the Sports Council, graphically illustrate the interest in golf course construction as a way of utilizing land no longer needed for agriculture, or from which it is no longer possible to make a decent return.

Given a choice, and a recovery in the property market, many landowners and farmers probably seek more profitable forms of development. But for obvious reasons planning permission for housing or industrial use is likely to be much more difficult to obtain; the government takes the view that in a national emergency golf courses could easily revert to food production so, if millions of people are desperate for room to swing a club, why not give them what they want?

But, it goes without saying, the equation is not as simple as that. Only a relatively small number of the proposed courses, including those for which permission has been granted, will be built. Many are simply in the wrong places, present access difficulties or will fail to find backers to put up the money.

Mick Presland, of the council's eastern region, stresses that the figures he has compiled from a questionnaire sent to 48 planning authori-

ties, could be misleading. He is preparing a report which he hopes will present the situation in a more realistic light. Of the six counties in the region, only Essex has "grasped the nettle" by issuing a document for the guidance of district authorities and would-be developers. It deals with such matters as land use, access, visual intrusion and other planning criteria but, as Mr Presland points out, it cannot broach the subject of the demand for golfing facilities "because that is not a planning consideration".

Quantifying that demand is proving to be almost impossible. A developer may discover the number of names on the waiting lists of clubs in a particular area and conclude that he has a ready-made market, without stopping to consider that many of the names may be duplicated, and that the course he plans may prove to be too remote or too expensive.

The council and golfing authorities see the problem in a wider perspective, pointing out that there may well be countless thousands of people, particularly young men and women from working class backgrounds, who have dreamt of taking up golf but have rejected the idea because of the expense and what they

see as the snobbery and exclusiveness of many clubs. What they are perceived to need is somewhere cheap and accessible to learn and practise, but who is going to supply the facilities? Alistair Copeland, of the council's Yorkshire region, says he has talked to about 50 local authorities, and that most applications appear to be at the top end of the market for developments that include luxurious clubhouses, leisure centres, hotels and housing.

There seem to be very few at the bottom end who just want to build plain golf courses, he says. "There is a very considerable gap between all the hype about the need for new facilities and the number of courses that get built".

A much quoted figure is the estimate by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, the sports governing body, that some 700 new courses may be needed by the end of the century. That is based on the assumption of a need for one course for every 25,000 people.

Figures produced at a recent seminar organized by the Sports Council's East Midlands region employed a more conservative estimate of one course for every 32,000 people. On that basis the counties of Derbyshire,

Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire, which have the equivalent of 95 18-hole courses between them, should be aiming for a target of 124 courses. With only seven courses under construction, the region needs a further 20, but there are 46 proposals with planning permission or awaiting approval.

One of the main themes to emerge from the seminar was the need for greater flexibility. Martin Hawtree, honorary secretary of the British Association of Golf Course Architects, pointed out that Victorian golf courses emerged in a rough and ready manner to provide an escape from the dirt and squalor of the cities, and in some places such as Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham acted as a primitive green belt.

Golf development did not always demand construction of a full 18-hole course. There were plenty of cheaper, simpler options, including "par three" nine hole courses, pitch-and-putt courses and driving ranges.

But Jeremy Evans, a leisure consultant, suggested that the best "business opportunity" lay in a development which included a hotel and conference centre. He estimated that a golf course and clubhouse alone might cost £1,400,000 to construct; if 450 members paid a joining fee of £180 and an annual subscription of £245, the net return in the first year would be a mere £31,000.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England takes a generally sceptical view. It says the R & A's suggestion of

a need for 700 new courses does not constitute a reasoned forecast but is a crude calculation based on an arbitrary assumption of demand. Research by the land agents, Strutt & Parker, suggests that, if the present rate of planning permissions continues, there will be a significant oversupply in many counties.

Golf courses are particularly suited to the edges of towns and cities where they can be a means of improving the landscape, it says. In sensitive and more remote parts of the countryside they can have a damaging and undesirable impact, and should not be considered as an appropriate alternative land use without careful consideration.

Local groups at Wraybury, Berkshire, including the parish council, have mounted a campaign against a proposal for a golf course on land considered one of the main historic and rural sites in the county that includes Ankerwycke Priory and has links with the signing of the Magna Carta (Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent, writes).

The land, at Ankerwycke Farm, was given an agricultural lease two years ago by the county council but is not being farmed, and is now the subject of an application to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead by the property development group London Securities for a golf course complex.

In an attempt to save the land from development, the groups have asked the county council to retain it for agricultural use or alternatively offer it to the National Trust.

When tidal wave hit Scotland

By NORMAN HAMMOND

EVIDENCE of a tidal wave that struck Scotland seven thousand years ago has been found in excavations at Inverness. The layer of clean white sand left by the inundation could become an important temporal marker, linking Mesolithic sites on both sides of the North Sea.

Although the excavation, at Castle Street, Inverness, took place in 1985 the evidence of a tsunami or tidal wave was recognized only last year, when the white sand deposit overlying the Mesolithic hunters' camp was identified as a phenomenon noted elsewhere in eastern Scotland.

Radiocarbon dates bracket the event between about 7,140 and 6,850 years ago, and it seems likely to be the same one noted at Mesolithic sites at Broughy Ferry on the Tay estuary and at Morton in Fife, the latter now being several miles inland. The sand layer has also been found at non-archaeological localities in carseland estuarine sediments, tapering out into peat deposits further inland.

The stratigraphic and microfossil evidence indicate a short-lived event, and the cause has been identified as a massive undersea landslide on the continental slope off Storegga in north-western Norway. It involved the displacement of some 1,700 cubic kilometres of sediment over an area a quarter the size of Scotland. Such large submarine slides are known to generate tsunami waves, and the Mesolithic event is calculated to have hit the coast with a wave eight metres (26 feet) high.

The tsunami probably lasted only a few hours, but the sand deposit is a valuable stratigraphic marker, which may have sealed at a moment in time and over a wide area of the coastal landscape a number of sites then occupied by Mesolithic people, concludes the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (no. 17, pp 309-312).

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Fit for the fight?

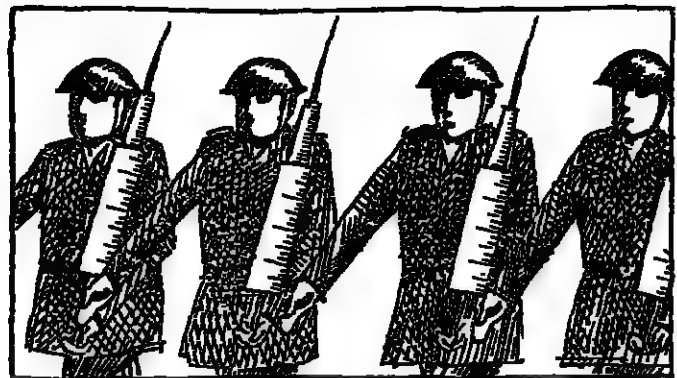
As Dr Charles Goodson-Wicks, the Conservative MP for Wimbledon, prepares to exchange the Georgian charm of Devonshire Place for the Arabian desert, his thoughts will turn from the effects of a high-cholesterol diet on bankers' arteries to the influence that biological and chemical warfare may have on the treatment of battle casualties. Last week's warning that the Iraqis had prepared for the use of biological weapons, or "germ warfare", centred interest on anthrax. The research in the 1939-1945 war showed that although no organism met the criteria needed to make it a perfect weapon, anthrax would have been the most destructive. Normally, anthrax is seen in Britain only in

workers handling imported hides or fleeces. It derives its name, as does anthracite, from the Greek word for coal, for the centre of an anthrax pustule is coal-black. To be militarily effective in biological warfare, the disease induced should have a short incubation period, and symptoms of sudden onset which are quickly in-

capacitating or lethal. The illness should be prolonged and not amenable to treatment or preventable by vaccination. Its spread should not later pose a threat to advancing armies.

Even anthrax fares badly when judged by these standards. Anti-anthrax vaccine has been used successfully in civilian life for many years. The infection responds rapidly to penicillin and although its symptoms may be of sudden onset, anthrax has a comparatively long incubation period (three to five days), quite long enough to organise a massive retaliation. In damp, warm climates, anthrax can contaminate the countryside for decades, but the bacillus forms spores less readily in a hot, dry atmosphere.

Typhoid, cholera and yellow fever have also been assessed as potential weapons for germ warfare, but their disadvantages have been found to be even greater than those of anthrax. Vaccination or prophylactic treatment is readily available against them all, as it is against some of the more exotic viral diseases which have been suggested. Another bacillus, *ulcerum*, usually found in American rabbit and squirrel droppings, offers greater potential as a weapon, but a potent vaccine developed both in the United States and the Soviet Union is available against it.

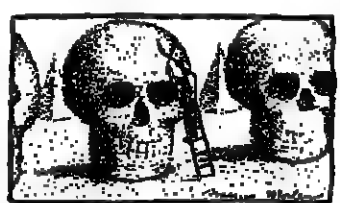


When the wind blows...

A gang of 18th century charcoal burners anticipated the current clamour for workplace crèches by hollowing out the bough of a yew tree to make a cradle. Their tree at Ambergate, Derbyshire, which inspired the nursery rhyme "Rock-a-Baby", is to be preserved. A yew is unsuitable for a natural cradle, for the wind which rocks the cradle may also scatter poisonous berries and dead leaves within the range of infantile fingers. The toxin, taxine, in yew is concentrated in dead leaves during the drying process.

As poisonous plants tend to contain a wide variety of toxins, the unwary child may be nearer to God's heart in a garden than Dorothy Gurney ever supposed, or a modern parent realises. The dangers of yew, laburnum, nightshade and acornite are well known, but many popular plants, including such favourites as wisteria and cypressus, also contain poisonous agents. The essence of treatment is speed: if a casualty department is not close

at hand for a stomach washout, two teaspoonsful of the emetic mixture ipecacuanha for a one-year-old, four teaspoons for a three-year-old — in both cases to be followed at once by a glass of water — does the trick. Vomiting occurs within 20 minutes.



Risk of feeling better

Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme suggested recently that treatment of depression with 5HT re-uptake inhibitors may initially increase the suicide risk. In fact, a large trial involving more than 3,000 patients showed this was less likely to happen to those treated with these drugs (which produce an increase of the chemical 5HT, thereby having an anti-depressant effect) than with the patients treated with more commonly prescribed anti-depressants.

The increased suicide risk in early stages of treatment was noted when anti-depressants

were introduced more than 30 years ago. The explanation then given was simple; it was suggested that deeply depressed patients were sometimes too apathetic even to summon the spirit needed to kill themselves. As they started to recover, a very few found that when their energy increased they wanted to translate their suicidal or aggressive thoughts into action. The same problem has been recorded in patients when they have started to recover spontaneously or after psychotherapy. The lesson is obvious: the patient's initial recovery stage needs close supervision.

Beaming with health?

Medical experts are increasingly worried about the danger of excessive exposure to x-rays. Ann Kent reports

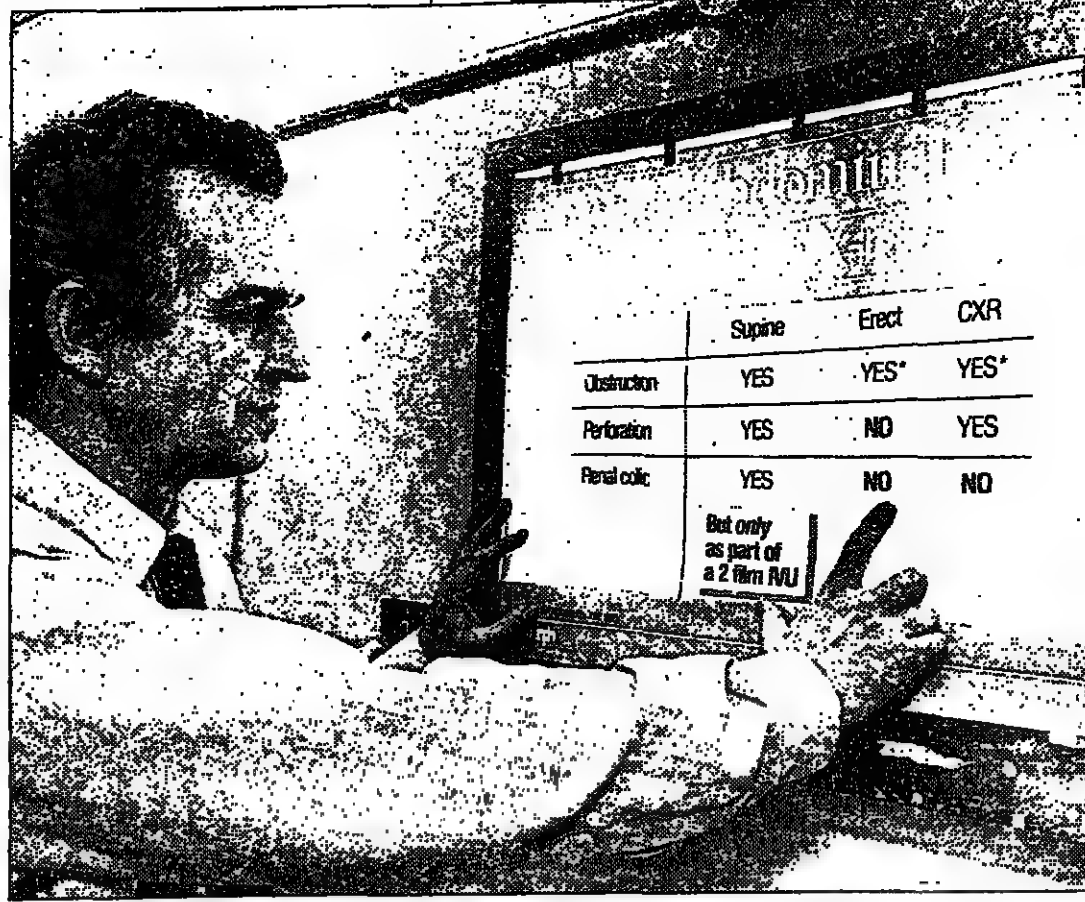
One person in four has an x-ray every year. When dental x-rays are included, the figure is nearer to one person in two. Many of us regard such examinations as a welcome reassurance that our bones are not broken, our chests are clear, and our teeth are still firmly embedded. However, the Consumers' Association believes that over-exposure to medical x-rays could be damaging our health.

According to a report published today in the association's magazine, *Which?*, hospitals are failing to follow the guidelines designed to keep doses to the minimum.

The *Which?* survey reinforces a report published jointly by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) and the Royal College of Radiologists last September, which stated that unnecessary radiation from medical x-rays probably caused between 100 and 250 fatal cases of cancer each year. The same report said the collective doses to the population could be halved without reducing their efficacy.

Ionising radiation from x-rays can damage cells and inhibit their growth. According to guidance from the NRPB on dose limits, there is no safe lower limit of exposure to ionising radiation. In fact, radiation from medical sources represents only about 12 per cent of our total exposure. The rest comes from cosmic radiation and radioactive elements in rocks. Although such low doses of radiation may cause some cell damage, the defective cells are usually quickly replaced by the body's natural repair mechanisms. Nevertheless, average doses of background radiation are believed to cause up to 5,000 deaths from cancer each year in the United Kingdom, according to the NRPB.

If such deaths from natural radiation are unavoidable, ought we to worry about the much lower risk involved in the use of medical x-rays? Dr Hylton Meire, a consultant radiologist at King's College Hospital, London, believes that there is much scope for reducing the amount of radiation absorbed by patients, which can,



Safety first: Dr Gerald de Lacey examines one of the posters used to display information about x-rays

in any case, vary greatly between hospitals.

Dr Meire, the chairman of the King's Centre for the Assessment of Radiological Equipment, says: "Some patients receive 100 times more x-ray dose than they need, particularly in hospitals with old equipment." Hospitals which cannot afford to replace equipment can greatly reduce the doses, he suggests, by fitting rare earth filters, at a cost of less than £100 each.

Another simple measure to reduce the level of exposure would be to improve the filing system. According to Dr Meire, between 30 and 40 per cent of x-ray films cannot be found by some hospitals when they are needed. Specialists may order new x-rays to be carried out so they can examine the results themselves.

"Patients should expect the radiologist to follow the ALARA [as low as reasonably achievable] principle," he says. "It is good practice to ask women whose pelvic region is to be x-rayed if they think they could be pregnant. If they are not asked, women should query this. Patients who are having a second x-ray of the same region within six months

should mention this to the hospital staff to make sure the previous examination has not been overlooked. I also think it is a good idea to ask your former dentist to forward dental x-rays if you move to a new one."

Dr Meire would also welcome an end to routine chest x-rays as part of pre-employment checks. "This dates from the days when TB was far more common," he says. The number of x-rays which are requested could also be reduced. "About 98 per cent of skull and ankle x-rays and about 90 per cent of barium investigations prove to be normal," he says. Dr Meire believes the estimate of 250 deaths caused by unnecessary x-rays is "very realistic".

Even so, fewer x-rays are carried out per head of the population in the United Kingdom than in most other developed countries. Britain carries out 550 x-rays per 1,000 people each year, compared with almost 800 in the United States, 1,000 in Canada and nearly 1,400 in Japan. Nevertheless, radiologists in many parts of the UK are re-evaluating their guidelines.

Dr Gerald de Lacey, a consul-

tant radiologist at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, north London, has been studying the unnecessary use of x-rays for almost 20 years. At Northwick Park casualty department large posters are used to display information about the appropriate use of x-rays. "We have managed to reduce skull and abdominal x-rays by 50 per cent," Dr de Lacey says. He accepts that a minority of doctors may choose x-rays rather than risk being sued later for a missed diagnosis, but says: "Irradiating people for medical-legal reasons can never be justified. ... Normal x-ray findings can be a very useful aid to diagnosis in many diseases, but the ritual in which so many casualty patients have a two-hour wait for an unnecessary test is wasteful."

However, Dr de Lacey has discovered that patients who expect, but do not receive, a skull x-ray seem to take longer to recover and are more likely to express dissatisfaction with their treatment. "They may be anxious that their cases are not being managed properly and we need to find a way of explaining to the public that x-rays are not always helpful."

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Sepia snap of a troubled man

Dust jacket blurbs must always be taken with a pinch of salt, a dram of malt, or diluted according to taste à la Ribena. The Hutchinson rabbiting on this sea-green volume is a heroic example of publishable, and no exception to the rule. "Witty and perceptive ... civilised and compassionate ... tragic and moving ... graceful and profound ... blah blah blah." Och, they've used up all me

Michael Wright on the domestic tale of the abyss of time

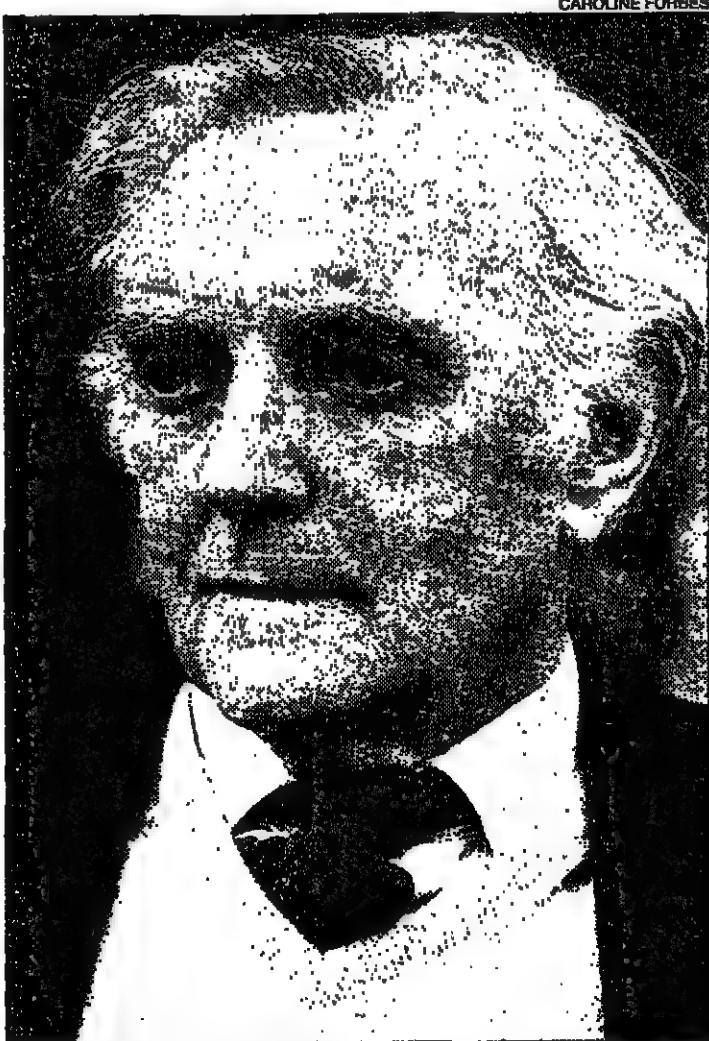
adjectives. What is left, after this shatter-grenade of praise, for the reviewer who didn't get a thesaurus in his stocking? Weeding the sixpences out of the murky plum stodge, that's what, and

washing the rest of the Hutchinsonian down the waste disposal. Make no mistake, there's nothing stodgy about Newby's latest oeuvre. This is a sharply focused sepia photograph of a novel, which makes up in structural finesse for what it lacks in colour, as the author builds up a snapshot patchwork of character and action with apparent artlessness, enlivening the whole with restrained dashes of vivid physical detail.

Set in south Wales at the beginning of this century, the book focuses upon the domestic milieu of Charles White, a chipper chippie (i.e. prickly carpenter) whose ontological doubts give him a voracious appetite for weighty tomes on philosophy and science. According to Charles, "Reading puts you in touch. And takes you out of yourself." This may be so in the case of prize-writer like Newby (who was the first recipient of the Booker in 1969), but Charles's steady diet of Ruskin, Carlyle, Darwin and Nietzsche actually turns him in on himself, and blinds him to the needs of those close to him: his wife Hannah, his daughter Agnes, and his troubled illegitimate son James. Unable to separate the cosmic from the mundane, Charles gives little James a telescope instead of a teddy bear, and fossils instead of affection: symbols of the future and the past that highlight his desire for escape from the present.

Apart from giving a new buzz to the old nature/nurture question, the novel essentially dramatises the quest to find meaning in life at a time when the first world war is beginning to leave a crack across the table of history. As Charles observes, "Even in a godless, abandoned, absurd world there must be natural justice", but he can find no helpful explanation for the death of his son, or for the thousands lying slaughtered in the trenches of France.

Society is disintegrating, and there are frequent references to "the Abyss", a multivalent archetype that seems to link war in Europe, revolution in Russia, Charles's proto-existential despair, and the chicks in Hannah's comfortable Christianity (to say nothing of London pea-soupers and the "darkies" in Tiger Bay) — all this — with the unbridled gulf between the conscious and the unconscious parts of the mind. The connection is never made explicit, but when one toils up the number of potentially symbolic in the narrative, and the number of archetypal elements in the action itself, it is hard not to see in the Abyss a graphic representation of the Jungian unconscious.



P. H. Newby, looking for the answers to life in a changing society

COMING IN WITH THE TIDE
By P. H. Newby
Hutchinson, £13.99

Psychoanalytic critics can have a field day with this one.

Despite the novel's psychological interplay between the domestic and the cosmic, there are no *dei ex machinis*, and the gentle undulations of the plot achieve refreshing unpredictability without ever straining belief. Happy surprises abound: Newby's "pre-Modern" style lulls us into old-fashioned expectations about births and copulations and deaths that are rarely fulfilled. Small red herrings pop up the text as in a detective novel. Thus, when James vanishes and Charles carefully searches for him on a likely merchant vessel, going "everywhere but into the refrigeration plant", it seems all too obvious that James will turn up a week later encased in an iceblock of salt cod. Needless to say, he doesn't.

The fluid, organic development

of the narrative, as Newby carefully weaves characters into his web, is reflected in the smattering of imagery that peppers the novel. Nature looms large, a Baptist chapel resembles "a vast brilliantly lit cave", while many characters are compared to animals: screech owls, big tropical insects, or lizards. Even steam trains "cough like lions", and a newspaper editor deletes copy "like lines of insects under snow".

More archetypes, quote the psychoanalysts? But these are rare flourishes in a book whose architecture is not matched by its gargoyles. The characters are too shadowy to draw our full emotional compliance, and it is as if that crack across the table of history had left a crack in the sound-board of Newby's verbal piano; the old style melody he plays is clear, but it lacks resonance. The result is delightful, but ultimately unrewarding, like hearing a Chopin Nocturne played on a harpsichord, or eating a Christmas pudding sans sixpences, with only the tiniest dollop of brandy butter.

Caesar in analysis ad illum shrink

In a splendid spoof of an introduction to his novel on *Tiberius*, Allan Massie disclaims its authenticity. Its source is ascribed to a seedy Italian count who, asserts descent from the alchemist Cagliostro. Tiberius quotes Nietzsche in this supposed autobiography. But after Massie has had his fun in denying the truth of these memoirs of a Roman emperor, he sets out to discover the nature of Tiberius. Was he admirable or vicious, melancholy or monstrous?

Tiberius presents himself as deliberately unsympathetic. He delights in language that is hard, precise and cruel. He loves dryness. He relishes his lack of charm and being misunderstood. If he is not his own worst enemy, he is his own uncomfortable friend. Above all, he suffers from family pride, Claudian pride, so that he cannot even indulge in self-pity. Yet in spite of these self-imposed limitations on his style, Massie forces feeling through the restraints of Tiberius upon his expression of himself. "At best," he records, "life has good moments." A beautiful boy, the genius of Capri, approaches him and offers beauty and peace and oblivion on the island, if Tiberius consents to infamy throughout the ages. So Massie resolves the opinions of Tiberius in history.

The imaginative recreation of the ancient past is the testing art of the novel. Many try, most fail, Massie as a Roman triumph. In words as hard, precise and cruel as his participant, he exposes the motives of the imperial rulers. He writes like Suetonius, with the benefit of modern psychoanalysis. Tomorrow also conjures up yesterday, but a more recent period of summer-houses on a Danish island off the coast of Germany. There two German Jewish families have built their family homes as a solace and an escape from their motherland between the two world wars. When the Nazis rise to power, the Danes are exemplary in aiding the escape of the Jews to Sweden. But not all escape. There is a survivor, who chooses to become a servant in London, but who returns for a week as a paying guest to her

previous island place. She relives the past to excess, and this is the story of her last week. The present impinges upon her through emotion and insistence and revival.

It is rare to read a book that is so satisfactory, but not quite enough. Elizabeth Russell Taylor warns the heart, but she does not engage the feelings. Yet she deals with human love, which is called a capacity. "Some have it, most do not." Her heroine has it, but cannot cope with the return of the son of her lost friends. *Tomorrow* is short and sweet and sour, nostalgia with vinegar.

His publicity does Duncan Sprout's novel no good. The *Clopton Hercules* may be the first novel to be published by Faber out of the "slush pile" since *The Lord of the Flies*, but to tell of the provenance is patronising, while the comparison is invidious. This is a strangely factual tale of a county Casanova and sadist, given to public good show and private assault and lechery.

The book reads as a Victorian morality story. But its nature is divided. It is confused by the clarity of its contradictions. If it is meant to expose the social hypocrisy of the time, its blacks and whites are too arranged to convince. If it is intended to mock the little sermons of the age, its parody aims too near the originals.

Writing of the world of pre-historic humanity is like growing moonbeams out of apekens. Only two writers have fully succeeded, Jack London in *Before Adam* and William Golding in *The Inheritors*. A previous novel in this genre by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas has been hailed by John Updike as a vision of something quite other in nature. This sequel, *The Animal Wife*, is an account of another life lived in another state of nature by people very like us. The impression is of mammoth-hunters on a suburban ice rink.

The novel lacks that gift of transference which enables the civilised pen to write about the primitive spirit. While the author is admirable in her ethnographic studies on the animal class of the North American Indian tribes, she speaks in the voices of today, like Scouts in a summer camp.

Andrew Sinclair

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Poets and risk takers to the fore

Geoff Brown reviews Derek Jarman's *The Garden*, Verhoeven's *The Nasty Girl*, *Secret Wedding*, *Arachnophobia* and *Air America*

Cinema is much more than preening pin-ups, slambang action and a channel for advertising merchandise. Cinema is poetry, dreams, private thoughts, pinned down on celluloid by an artist wielding a camera and crew like a painter equipped with brush and palette. At the beginning of the year it is good to remember these things, before the avalanche of hand-me-down, mainstream product descends.

Yet Derek Jarman's *The Garden* (15, Camden Plaza) would be a difficult film to submerge at any time. This is cinema — British cinema to boot — of astonishing beauty and elegiac force: a litmus test for an audience's willingness to move beyond the safe harbour of conventional narrative into storm-tossed seas. Jarman follows the kaleidoscopic method he pursued in *The Last of England*, hurling images and obsessions at the astounded viewer, blending shots with the audacity and ease that comes from shooting and editing on Super 8, 16mm and video.

There is less fury now: from the vantage point of his cottage and garden among Dungeness's pebbles and flat horizons, Jarman surveys his life and times more in sorrow than anger. There is also a structure for the wary spectator to clutch. We begin with Jarman himself, asleep among his papers, water dripping onto a crucifix on the wall. He dreams. The Gospel story comes to life among the Dungeness stones, with Christ replaced, more often than not, by two persecuted gays; in the film's most maddening stretch, they are tarred and feathered by leering policemen. Other scenes recall Jarman's childhood — the long table of schoolmasters, for instance, wielding sticks, dunce cap at the ready. The Passion completed, instead of awaking Jarman contemplates his own death from the AIDS virus. "Cold, cold, cold, they died so silently," Michael Gough intones on the soundtrack;

yet the film expires in a strange, playful calm, among scudding clouds and a blazing sun.

Jarman has woven an extraordinary tapestry of moods and images around the themes of death, institutionalised religion and repressive attitudes to gay sex. Not every part brings equal rewards: bursts of burlesque humour, like the rendition of "Think Pink", or the spectacle of Judas peddling credit cards, fall annoyingly flat. But once Jarman abandons dialogue and song, and lets his painter's eye rove, whether among private images or public symbols, the results can be remarkably moving. After his last feature, *War Requiem*, something of a dutiful exercise, *The Garden* puts Jarman back on top, hoisting the torch of poetic cinema in a darkened world.

Michael Verhoeven's *The Nasty Girl* (PG, Screen on the Hill, Metro) is another comparative rarity: an art-house film that bites. The target for attack is German complacency over its Nazi past; the weapon is the real-life experience of a Bavarian girl, Anja Rosmus (see interview, below), who disturbs a hornet's nest by researching into her home town's history under the Third Reich. She is stung by evasions, tales of mislaid files and physical abuse; but she sticks to her guns, uncovering eager acquiescence in Nazi crimes and rampant post-war hypocrisy.

The subject invites the most serious treatment. Verhoeven, however, wrestles with the issues through black comedy, fancifully styled against back-projected settings. Lena Stolze plays the nasty girl (here called Sonja) with enough wide-eyed aggression to make her almost as irritating to the audience as she is to the townsfolk with something to hide.

The film needs spikes and prickles: they help form its cutting edge, its ability to provoke and offend.



Litmus test of audience reaction: Kevin Collins (left), Johnny Mills and "their" baby in *The Garden*

The bizarre, wide-angled camera-work heightens visual tension, capturing the sense of a town entangled in deceit and the mad march of history. This is rumbustious film-making.

Alejandro Agresti's *Secret Wedding* (ICA Cinema) proves equally rewarding: a magical meeting of Argentinian political parable and off-beat romance, brought together

by a young director plainly intoxicated by cinema.

The bemused hero is Fermin Garcia, one of the "disappeared ones", released after 12 years' detention. "Is there democracy outside?" he asks. The police shrug with their eyes, as well they might: Fermin finds his village home still under the repressive grip of Church and State.

As his former lover no longer recognises him, Fermin must begin the mating game all over again. Armed with expert players, sardonic wit and Satie's melancholy piano music, Agresti builds from Fermin's plight a subtle portrait of a country in limbo, wilfully ignoring past crimes but without the energy to move into the future. Maybe Argentina needs its own nasty girl.

Long-legged new shocker that should run and run

Hollywood has manufactured many machines for saying "Boo!", though few recent thrillers have scared the pants off the public with the verve of *Arachnophobia* (PG, Odeon Leicester Square). Venomous creepy-crawlies — the offspring from a fatal battle between a Venezuelan interloper and a common Californian spider — infest every inch of the screen and ruin the repose of a picket-fenced community. They dangle from light-shades, crawl into slippers and baseball helmets, lunge across a shower curtain rail and bury themselves in a popcorn bowl. Corpses lie strewn in their wake. California has seen nothing like it since our feathered friends went wild in *The Birds*.

The director, Frank Marshall (best known for his production activities with Steven Spielberg), readily acknowledges Hitchcock's influence. In preparation for the film, he

studied the master's best essays in high anxiety, along with *Jaws*, *Alien* and *High Noon*. He learned how to prick the tension with comedy or a swift, lethal cut, leaving the last spiral of terror to our imagination. He learned the value of dramatic irony, bouncing the nightmare off firm characters, from the city couple seeking cosy seclusion (doctor Jeff Daniels and Harley Jane Kozak) to local oddities such as the town mortician, waiting around parlour and slab munching fast food.

Fear of spiders, however, grips more people more fiendishly than any other phobia; and it may be that the film's prime target audience will be too terrified to slap down their money at the box-office. This

would be a pity. Until the final battle in a wine cellar, where the fund of fresh shocks runs out, Marshall and his team spin a crafty web of good-natured thrills, executed by a spider army. Jeff Daniels' bemused style snugly fits the doctor hero who seems to bring death to his patients; among the rest, John Goodman contributes an amusing vaudeville turn as the Rambo-like local exterminator.

Air America (15, Odeon West End) aims to woo the mass market with a different package: aerial stunts, anarchic behaviour, Mel Gibson, loud music, and an exotic period setting (Laos, 1969). Gibson — who gives no indication here that he wanted to play Hamlet — joins pretty-faced Robert Downey Jr as a maverick pilot for a CIA-funded airline, mired in an off-shoot of the Vietnam war. Betwixt quips, pranks and daredevil crashes, they ferry guns, pigs and food to Lao-

tians fighting the Communists; the lads also discover, to their bogus horror, an optimum trade actively promoted by the airline's boss.

Battles raged in American newspapers about the semi-nude of the film's buffoonery. *The Wall Street Journal* accused the film of "trashing history": veteran pilots weighed in with their own protests. At least the film is open to a debatable reduction in the Indo-China war to juvenile noise and slapstick; it simply follows the Gibson character's belief in "the politics of Saturday night". Gibson likes lively weekends; Moscow

and Peking would have dismal Saturday nights, therefore he is anti-communist.

This deplorable concoction was directed by Roger Spottiswoode who, in *Under Fire*, brilliantly wrested honest entertainment from the Nicaraguan battle zone; a lot can happen in seven years.

Screenwriter of *The Nasty Girl*, Anja Rosmus talks to John Marriott

Smiles I trusted as a child, knew horror, unbelievable things. Although Passau has only 20,000 inhabitants, Hitler himself lived there as a child, as did Ernst Kaltenbrunner, the chief of security police in the Third Reich.

Beyond the alluring facade of caring Catholics and friendly bakers was a town which played willing host to three concentration camps. Though typical of young German liberals in that she displays an easy intellectual grasp of the Holocaust and its horrors, Rosmus is rare in her emotional commitment which has become a professional crusade in the last 10 years and resulted in several books. Why should a seemingly contented and very popular schoolgirl, free of anxiety and full of parental love, whose family enjoy a high social standing, embark on proceedings which would isolate her from the community, create in her "a shock without end" and cause her husband to leave her with two children?

"Because of my parents' insistence of loving everything around me, even my teacher and my cats, I couldn't bring myself to eat fish since I always felt they had been murdered. It was also at around this time, when I was

eight to ten years old, that I went several times to Italy, a land of sunshine, water and friendly children. I was shocked the first time I saw my arrogant countrymen on holiday there. I remember thinking that I definitely did not want to be a German."

Communicating a certain pride that she has acted with decency over the years, yet unable to cloak a sense of loss and sadness, she talks eloquently of the effect of her efforts on those Jews who fled Passau: "Many of the letters I received were from emigrants who were indeed homesick yet too frightened to return. I feel I've been able to reach out to those old people who were deeply wounded and act as a bridge between them and the local mayor."

The success of her books and her international recognition have led to official approval in public and the mayor himself was at Passau railway station to greet the return of an 82 year old Jew, Robert Klein, who had been exiled in San Francisco for 60 years. His return to Passau was the happiest moment of his life.

With the early wisdom of one who has made a rapid journey of self discovery, yet with a girliness which enables her to giggle at the fact that she never met actress Lena Stolze who plays her so well in the film, Rosmus seems to be both relieving herself of deep feelings and tapping the human instinct for truth and justice.

THEATRE

In tune with universal woman

Playwright Sharman Macdonald tells Heather Neill about her new play

Sharman Macdonald's new play, *All Things Nice*, is her first to be presented at the Royal Court: she sees it as a significant milestone: "I don't think I have ever not written with this stage in mind. There is a magnet at its centre, a point which draws all eyes in."

Chronicler of women's desires, wit, courage and humour, Macdonald felt she had to undergo a kind of apprenticeship before this point could be reached. She came to prominence in 1984 when her frank, comic account of Scottish female adolescence, *When I Was a Girl, I Used to Scream and Shout*, was presented at the Bush Theatre and won her the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright Award. The play consequently ran successfully in the West End and has been produced all over the world.

In the last seven years there have also been two novels (*The Beast and Night, Night*) and plays at the Bush and at the National Theatre, where Max Stafford-Clark, the director of the Royal Court Theatre, saw *When We Were Women* and was impressed. He has commissioned the new play.

Macdonald is in her late thirties, married to the actor Will Knightly and the mother of a son and a daughter. She was educated in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and still has a Scottish lilt. Although it is 18 years since she left Glasgow, she is drawn back often. She felt compelled "to conjure up *All Things Nice*. Yet she sees her characters as universal: "The Scots accent is simply the tune."

"Tune" is an apt word; Macdonald is a most musical writer. Her characters' speech, while growing "organically" (a favourite expression) from their personalities and surroundings, is full of satisfying rhythms. Even the stage directions read like poems: "Grey light. Rainlight flooding in from a high old school window. Dark varnished wood and small panes of glass. And the light falls on the girl playing the harpsichord."

That is how the play begins. The girl is playing Purcell, a composer about whom Macdonald enthuses. Quotations from *Dido and Aeneas* and *The Fairy Queen* provide all the incidental music and comment on the action. She is pleased by the neatness of her choice: *Dido and Aeneas* was

written in the late 17th century for a girls' school, several scenes in the new play are set in a girls' school in 1965.

The central figure is Moira, aged 15, who lives with her grandmother and a lodger because her parents are in the Middle East. Rose, her mother, writes her daughter comically revealing letters in her desperation for a confidante.

The theme is the seduction of innocence. Typically, Macdonald adds other subtle echoes: Rose, for instance, joins a drama group and plays the Countess in Anouilh's *The Rehearsal*, a play with a similar theme.

As always, the relationships are close, loving, potentially destructive — and often very funny to watch. "I am fascinated by the idea of heredity," she says, and here are grandmother, mother and daughter all reflecting and reacting to each other. Sex is important to them all because "I couldn't conceive of the end of desire in women". They are honest enough, though, to know how women are viewed by men. "A woman's body is a battle front and no mistake," says Rose.

The dialogue is

it is the fifth or sixth version of a script which reaches the theatre. It will be painstakingly honed and represent perhaps a year's work. This laborious method is one reason why Macdonald does not warm to television (though she did have an original screenplay, *Wild Flowers*, broadcast on Channel 4 last year). "One night and it's over." Besides, she relishes "the negotiation between actors and audience" which results in change every night. Her own experience as an actress may account for this. She enjoys the rehearsal process and takes part in both the improvisations and exercises.

Her characters carry a world of unspoken social impediments: she can tell you, if required, minute details about the living conditions, careers and wages of characters who do not even appear, all of which are "pulled out" in rehearsal. But her work is not autobiographical, though, as she says, "nothing comes of nothing".

● *All Things Nice* is at the Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (071-730 1745) from tomorrow.



Macdonald: subtle thematic echoes

Brave journey of discovery

Few of those who participate in the brightly lit process of promoting a film have endured a rough journey of tortured introspection. Yet Anja Rosmus, a world apart from the glib chat of showbiz superstars, speaks of her nightmare odyssey with such urgent passion that it seems as if all the events of her adult life must have been kaleidoscoped into the day before.

A 30-year-old who exudes both determination and sensitivity, Rosmus discovered the graphic horrors of the Third Reich that occurred in her home town of Passau through entering a school essay competition. This abrupt intrusion into her cosy Catholic childhood, and subsequent adult life of broken relationships and death threats, propelled the drama of *The Nasty Girl* (reviewed by Geoff Brown, above), a film by Michael Verhoeven. How did her journey start?

"It was the President of the Republic, Dr Carl Carstensen, who ran a national schools competition around different themes. Even after a few days' research into my home town under the Third Reich I was sure the reality was different from what I'd experienced. My first breakthrough was when I met the grandson of the man who had been the brown-shirted mayor."

Certain chilling moments in the film result from the dark tricks of those neighbours who now began to thwart her every attempt to uncover the truth. "These same people, whose

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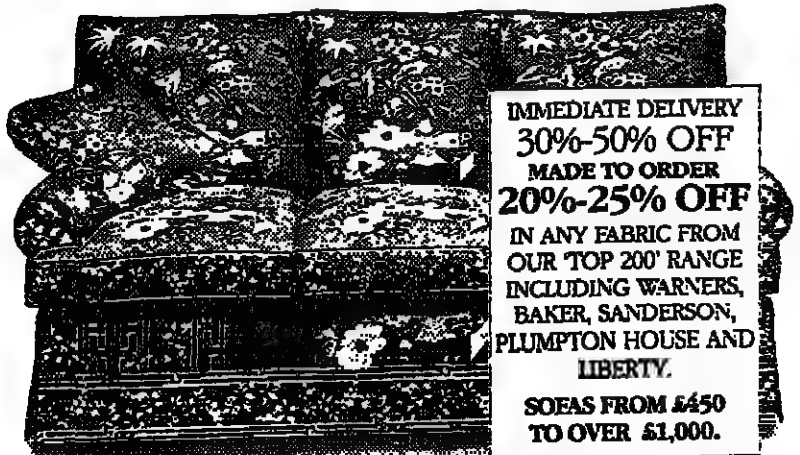
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Winter of modern discontent

THEATRE
The Winter's Tale
Schaubuehne, Berlin

LUC BONDY's magnificent new production, in a translation by Peter Handke, starts with a lipstick red ball tumbling across the blue grey stage, and is followed by a little boy who runs to his mother and whispers in her ear. The Sicilian court is built with right angles everywhere, strict rectangular walls sliding in and out, and floors and ceilings rising and sinking to define each new space.

This is an orderly place, governed by the likes of Peter Simonischek's Camillo, every inch the smooth patrician in an elegant, generously tailored suit with heavy watch-chain and silk pocket-handkerchief. Camillo and his colleagues are the original mandarins, to whom nothing is less welcome than change or disruption. When their master, Leontes, starts to behave unpredictably, they are rendered almost dumb with consternation.

Hans Christian Rudolph's Leontes feels his jealousy as a physical pain burning his heart; he struggles to resist it until it overcomes him and he sets in train the tragic events which climax with the death of his son and the collapse of his wife, Corinna. Rudolph is a picture of puny as the bewildered queen Hermione, defended by the loyal Paulina, a marvellous comic creation of righteous harridanism by Libgart Schwarz.

The harsh anger of the Sicilian court gives way to the dreamy disorder of Bohemia in the second half. The scene is ruled by Polixenes, who looks like Colonel Gaddafi and lives in a cave with his pet bear, and everything is covered with a soft deposit which looks like a mixture of wool and



Remarkable performance: Hans Christian Rudolph as Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* in Berlin

sawdust. It is a rustic scene with everything to offer to a couple of young lovers, including a juke-box in the corner - full of Country and Western records - which provides the soundtrack to the love-making of Florizel and Perdita.

Ernst Stötzner's Autolycus is instantly recognisable as one of the new breed of East European wide-boys, who have made Berlin their headquarters since the opening up of the Wall in November 1989, selling smuggled knock-knacks, changing currency and playing games of chance.

He enters on a bicycle pulling a trailer, mesmerises the shepherds and shepherdesses by playing Bob Dylan's "Memphis Blues" on a ghetto-blast, and picks their pockets as they sleep in one another's arms. Back in the Sicilian court, 16 bleak years have left Leontes a frail, stooped figure making the centre of the stage. There is no joy here and, as Paulina haunts the palace in her widow's weeds, there is no prospect of it. Leontes greets the young lovers by groping at his own daughter

like a depraved old man. When the statue of Hermione comes to life, the queen returns to a world irretrievably poisoned by the events of 16 years before and to a husband who has lost the capacity to give and receive love. Hans Christian Rudolph's performance is a remarkable one, articulating a psychological and emotional complexity with a clarity and authority which is a very model of the actor's art. It is the heartbeat at the centre of this wonderful production.

DENIS STAUNTON

OPERA

Nixon in China

Finnish National Opera, Helsinki

BEING a music critic may not be as dangerous a job as being a foreign correspondent, but sometimes one does follow the artform to unexpected locations. How about a production of John Adams's cultish opera *Nixon in China* in Helsinki, complete with satellite in Finland?

The city's current opera theatre is tiny, a beautiful 19th-century building in which the Finnish National Opera plays its usually conservative repertoire some 200 nights each year. Having taken the risk with *Nixon*, the company found itself having to substitute a

couple of performances of one of the season's other major attractions, *Puss in Boots*, in order to cope with demand for seats. With such an adventurous opera-going public, the future of Helsinki's new opera theatre, now taking shape down the road by Finlandia Hall, looks bright.

Ostensibly, this production was a new one, by Jussi Tapola, but the visual resemblances of her staging and of Hannu Lindholm's sets to those of Peter Sellars's well-travelled version were close. On a stage as small as this there is no room for extravaganzas such as Sellars's huge cut-out of Air Force One, so a leader leading from onstage sufficed; but the banquet scene, the entertainment scene and the bizarre finale, where the tables turn so that Mao regains his youth and Nixon reflects on his past life with pathetic nostalgia,

alga, struck familiar chords. Of course, the opera is about very little. It is an elongated fantasy of what these world leaders might really have been like behind the scenes. But what we see are not fully-grown personalities at all. Of course this is a reasonable guess at the truth; it just should not take two-and-a-half hours to say so. Accordingly, much of the music means very little either, though the intimacy of these circumstances helped its substantive elements to gallop its glossy, time-filling minimalist passages, and there are a couple of winning numbers in Nixon's aria "News, news, news" and in Mao's and Chiang Kai-shek's duet. Heikki Kinnunen looked convincing as Nixon and sounded splendidly resonant, though even better in both departments was Marko Pulkkinen's Kissinger.

Raili Viljakainen played Pat Nixon as an innocent abroad - sometimes petulant, sometimes harassed, and sometimes sickly-sentimental - even if her appearance was somewhat wide of the mark. Rikhi Kohola's Chiang Kai-shek, her opposite number, conveyed hard ambition helped by a voice of piercing strength, while the tenors Anssi Hirvonen (Mao) and Raimo Laukka (Chen En-Lai) were equally good in the other Chinese roles. Juhani Raikkinen conducted the eminently acceptable Finnish National Opera Orchestra, though for my money the best performances of the evening came from the ad hoc group which danced. Marjo Kuusela's dynamic choreography in the entertainment-turned-reality of the second act.

STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA

Die Agyptische Helena

Bavarian State Opera, Munich

IN THE Nationaltheater, Munich's premier opera house, opera is definitely not seen as something of or for the common man. People dress to look rich; the observer can feel that it is as unacceptable to register disapproval of a poor production as it is to bring a coat into the auditorium. Helmut Lehberger's old and tired staging of what must rank as one of the most awkwardly conceived collaborations of Hugo von Hofmannsthal and Richard Strauss, *Die Agyptische Helena*, deserved a few caustic, though its musical strengths, led by Dame Gwyneth Jones's performance in the title role, were self-evident.

The piece is an odd mixture of lighthearted quasi-mythology and strangely misplaced, badly targeted philosophy; real human characters find no place in it. Perhaps a producer surer in the business of creative stagecraft might be able to turn it into a piece that works. There is no denying the richness of the music. Indeed it finally becomes rather cloying, not least because Strauss employs expressionist means for ends that do not demand such intensity. Most of the acting was awful. Characters, when not singing, stood around trying to find the right expression but succeeded only in looking superfluous. Massive props - a tall tent made of blue sheets (which refused to behave as bidden) for the desert scene of Act II, and a heavy neo-baroque, opulent salon for Act III's Palace in Act I - lent the production an air of heaviness. All of this was, to judge from extant photographs, more or less period-style, but most audiences

now demand something more. Perhaps the worst moment, despite the rather confused and, by today's standards, rather offensive use of caricatured racial stereotypes as natives just before, came at the end of the evening when, without warning, a massive, patently two-dimensional ship made its way laboriously through the front of the stage and waved stuff farewells to the rest of the cast, who in turn waved back for the duration of the final scene. One was somehow reminded of *Captain Pugwash*, the beloved children's cartoon series of old, except that *Pugwash* achieved subtler characterisations and the set pieces did not last as long. Even the rapturous, if sometimes slightly strained, singing of Dame Gwyneth's Helena was hard put to triumph over such odds,

and she looked as though she had been planted on the set fresh from a transatlantic flight. Klaus König's Menelaus was equally authoritative of voice, but the vocal triumph of the evening came with Inga Nielsen's Aithra. Hans Günter Nöcker's debonair Alkibiades, but not quite funny, De-Ud were also sung well, though one had to spare a thought for Anne Pellekorne as the visionary Mussel, trapped inexplicably within a strange contraption complete with goaty antennae and a television screen. She coped admirably, but if this was supposed to be visual humour, it weighed mightily heavily. Wolfgang Sawallisch conducted the Bavarian State Opera Orchestra like a man who knows he is at home and comfortable; their response was not always as refined as one might have hoped.

STEPHEN PETTITT

NEW RELEASES

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG) Coccolle D'Amico stars Paul Hogan as a professional thief who becomes a hero when he is framed for the death of a good cop. Released on video by Warner Home Video (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95). Hogan (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95).

FANTASIA (U) Disney's fantasy musicalisation of the classic novel *Madame Tante* is a beautiful film. Released on video by Warner Home Video (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95). Hogan (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95).

THE MAHABHARATA (U) Three-hour version of the epic story which comes to a dramatic conclusion. Released on video by Warner Home Video (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95). Hogan (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95).

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (PG) Cameron's excellent film about the life of the world's first female TV newsreader. Released on video by Warner Home Video (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95). Hogan (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95).

THE COMPTON OF STRANGERS (PG) A film about the life of a woman who becomes a hero when she is framed for the death of a good cop. Released on video by Warner Home Video (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95). Hogan (VHS £14.95, Laser £19.95).

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London (where indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the country.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Answers from page 18

TIGER (a) The shaft of a column in one of the several orders of classical architecture, from the Latin *tibia* a stalk or pipe. (b) In architecture, the shaft of a column from the astragal to the capital.

KAAMA (a) The hartbeest, one of the divers varieties of South African antelope. (b) A game played in the Hottentot language. "Kaama" is the distance in minutes between the start and finish of a race.

FANAL (a) A beacon or light-house, from the Greek *phos* a light; Robert Browning's *Sordido*: "He flashes like a fanal, - all men catch/The flame."

BUSTLE (a) The rear part of the torso of a tank, from the old past or framework of a woman's skirt, to emphasise her bottom of good sense. (b) The bustle, a small single unit of ammunition which has to be stored in the bustle, and accordingly makes it more vulnerable.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

PRIVATE LIVES (a) The chess move which leads to a win. (b) The chess move which leads to a win.

THE KING AND THE KNIGHT (a) The chess move which leads to a win. (b) The chess move which leads to a win.

THE KING AND THE KNIGHT</

BBC

- 6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicolas Witchell and Laurie Meyer
6.50 Children's BBC, introduced by Simon Parkin, Andi Peters and Philippa Forrester, begins with The New Yogi Bear Show (r)
9.00 News, regional news and weather 9.05 Popeye and Son (r) 9.30 Why Don't You...? Entertaining ideas for youngsters with time on their hands
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Rupert, cartoon about the friendly young bear, narrated by Ray Brooks (r) 10.35 Paddles Up, Chris Rea and John Gosling give commentary on the final heat of the international canoeing series
11.00 News, regional news and weather
11.05 Film: Scaramouche (1952) Stewart Granger stars in this colourful swashbuckler based on Rafael Sabatini's novel set at the time of the French Revolution. Granger plays the illegitimate son of a nobleman determined to avenge the death of a friend at the hand of master duellist the Marquis de Merveilles. Also stars Eleanor Parker and Mel Ferrer. Directed by George Sidney 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather 1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax)
1.50 Film: Little Women (1949). Heavy-handed and sentimental version of Louisa May Alcott's classic story of four sisters who are brought up by their mother in 1850s America. Starring Elizabeth Taylor, June Allyson, Janet Leigh and Margaret O'Brien. Directed by Mervyn LeRoy
3.50 Dooby's Luck Truck 3.55 Gordon the Gopher. The furry Gopher Live puppet star gets his own show 4.05 Jackanory. Christopher Timothy and Jan Francis tell the story of Jackanory 4.20 Fantastic Max. Cartoon about a bonic baby (r) 4.30 Bill Webb's Amazing Story. New six-part children's drama series based on characters created by Andrew (A Very Peculiar Practice) Davies and starring Scott Riley and Mike Watling
4.55 Newsround 5.05 Blue Peter with Yvette Fielding, John Leslie and Diane Louise Jordan. (Cee-fax)
5.55 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland. Sportswide 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Jill Dando. Weather 6.30 Regional News Magazine. Northern Ireland. Neighbours 7.30 EastEnders. Continuing soap set in east London. (Cee-fax)
8.00 To the Manor Born. A wedding. The episode from the classic sitcom which pulled in one of television's largest audiences when first shown. (Cee-fax)
8.30 The Brittas Empire. Comedy series about a man who irritates everyone in his path. Chris Barrie of Red Dwarf fame plays Gordon Brittas, the new manager of the Whitbury New Town Leisure Centre who meddles in everyone's business. (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland. Hidden Ground
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather
9.30 Smith and Jones. Last in the present series of comedy sketches with Gail Rhys Jones and Mel Smith. Among tonight's items are a clowns' call to arms and a preview of a new movie about the Welsh mafia. (Cee-fax)
10.00 Film: The Whistle Blower (1987). Nigel Havers, Michael Caine and James Fox star in a gripping spy thriller. Staff at GCHQ, the national security establishment, are warned to report suspicious behaviour by their colleagues. Then a likely mole is killed in unusual circumstances. Directed by Simon Langton. (Cee-fax)



Pamela Franklin, Megs Jenkins and Deborah Kerr (11.45pm)
11.45 Film: The Innocents (1961, b/w). Deborah Kerr stars in a stylishly creepy ghost story based on The Turn of the Screw by Henry James. A governess believes the spirits of two dead lovers are possessing the two children in her charge. Is the mansion, owned by the children's uncle (Michael Redgrave), really haunted or is the woman imagining things? Directed by Jack Clayton
12.00am Weather

BBC

- 8.00 News 8.15 Laurel and Hardy in The Chimp (b/w). (r)
8.40 Film: Tarzan and the Huntress (1947, b/w). Directed by Kurt Maunsmann
9.50 Film: Murder Ahoy (1964, b/w). Miss Marple (Margaret Rutherford) investigates murders on board a training ship. Directed by George Pollock
11.20 How Are the Kids? Jean-Luc Godard co-directed this short film in which young women read Yogi Yulgo to a child. It is a reflection on war, education and the tyranny of ideas
11.25 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Bernstein at Harvard. In the fifth of a series of six lectures Bernstein studies some of the conflicts facing 20th-century composers (r)
1.45 Charlie Chalk. Animated entertainment for the young (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by Flying Birds. The beauty of gardens, flowers and exotic birds in flight (r)
2.15 Antique Roadshow from Ipswich, north London (r). (Cee-fax)
3.00 News and weather followed by Barry Norman's Films of the Year (r). (Cee-fax) 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Search Dogs of the Summit. Training mountain rescue dogs (r)
4.30 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. How modern particle physics is providing new theories to explain the evolution and origin of the universe
5.30 The Travel Show. The Austrian Tyrol area (r) (Cee-fax)
6.00 Film: Piratas (1988). Roman Polanski's disappointing adventure story is lifted by a deliciously hammy performance from Walter Matthau as a Robert Newton-style buccaner
7.55 Animation Now. The Public Voice. Samuel Danish film 8.05 State House
8.10 CHOICE: One of the ironies of television is that while constantly reviving old films, it is very short of unearthing its own treasure. For too many productions, particularly of drama, are shown once, get a quick repeat and are never seen again. But there are encouraging signs. The BBC's Channel 4 has returned last year to an enthusiastic welcome and now the BBC brings back one of its most successful television series of the 1980s. First shown in 1985 and adopted by the reliable Arthur Aspinall, the House of the Future series has been a success. It provided a dramatic treat for those who had never read the novel. Anyone can quibble about a scene cut here and a character overlooked there. What matters is the atmospheric recreation of Victorian London, with its dark alleys and swirling fog, and a least of acting heard by Dana Riggs's Lady Dedlock and Denholm Elliott's John Jamieson. (Cee-fax)
9.00 The Mary Whitehouse Experience. A new series of the cult radio and television comedy series starring a different topic each week

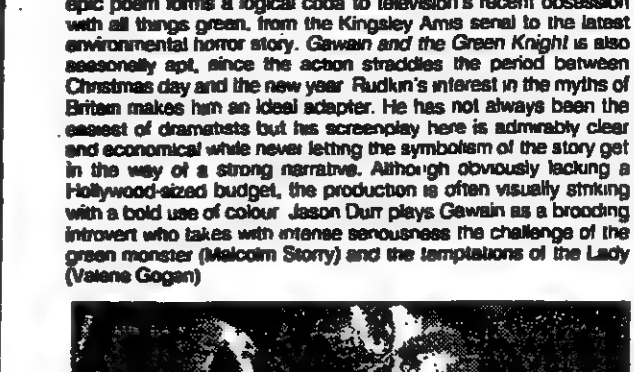


Reluctant guest for the trials: Grace Jackson (8.30pm)

- 8.30 40 Minutes: Whatever Happened To Sue? CHOICE: Following up a story from Women's Hour, Sally George's film relates the efforts of a Jewish woman to trace her German family half a century after coming to Britain as a refugee from the Nazis. Grace Jackson arrived with her twin sister as a three-year-old in 1939 and was brought up by a stern Baptist minister in Wales. Told only that she had been orphaned, she first learned her real name when she sat her O-levels. The sister died and Grace married an Englishman. Two years ago a Woman's Hour item on Jewish children from Nazi Germany set her off on a trail that took her to New York and Munich and emotional meetings with relatives she had never known. At the heart of her quest was the determination to discover the fate of her parents. The film unfolds like a detective story, screening up the tension as Grace gets closer to the truth, while testing the human dimension with tact and sympathy. (Cee-fax)
10.15 A Life in Pieces. Sir Arthur Streeb-Greentree (Peter Cook) chooses the path of his 12 Christmas gifts, with Ludovic Kennedy
10.30 Newsnight presented by Peter Snow 11.15 Weather
11.20 Film: Blood Simple (1984) starring John Cazale, Frances McDormand, Emmet Watson and Dan Hedaya. A flamboyant homage to the film noir which mixes attitude, private investigation, double dealing and murder. An accomplished thriller that marked the descending descent of the brothers, Joel and Ethan Coen, whose latest film, Blood Simple, is set to be released. (Cee-fax) Ends at 1.00am

BBC

- 6.00 TV-am
6.25 Porcy Pig. Cartoon (r) 9.30 Thames News and weather
9.35 Fast It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World (1963). Spencer Tracy, Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Phil Silvers and almost every old Hollywood comedian you can think of star in this frenetic chase comedy about the search for hidden loot left by a deceased villain. There are many good individual sequences but three hours is far too long. Directed by Stanley Kramer
12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One and weather
1.20 Film: Dr. Syn - Alias the Scarecrow (1963). Smuggling adventure starring Patrick McGeehan, George Cole and Michael Hordern. In the early 18th century, a huge tax is levied by King George III on all imports from the continent. As a result, the Kent-Sussex coast becomes a haven for smugglers, led by a strange masked homunculus named the Scarecrow. A tame, studio-bound Disney drama with some scary moments, directed by James Neilson
3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian soap set in a large city hospital
3.55 Owl TV. The first of a new series of the wildlife programme 4.15 The Young Doctors. A new series about the hospital staff of a large city hospital. A new comedy set in the first British outlet of a Canadian hamburger chain. With a guest appearance by Gary Lineker
5.10 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers.
5.40 News. (Cee-fax) Weather
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. Soap set in a Yorkshire Dales farming community. (Cee-fax)
7.30 Everybody's Equal. Chris Tarrant hosts the high-tech quiz which involves 200 people
8.00 The Bill: The Chase. A petrol robbery sparks off a high-speed chase in the heart-thumping police drama (Cee-fax)
8.30 The Bill: An Officer and a Gentleman. Having finally hit the big time, Arthur Daley spends his days evening around in his Rolle Royce and dabbling in counterfeiting goods. These include military gear which he tries to sell to Richard Brinsley's no-good colonel. A feature-length episode of the priceless comedy-drama, starring George Cole and Dennis Waterman (r)
10.00 News at Ten. (Cee-fax) Weather 10.20 Thames News and weather
10.30 Gavin and the Green Knight
CHOICE: A dramatization by David Rudkin of the 14th-century epic poem forms a topical comment on television's recent obsession with all things green. From the King's Arms serial to the latest environmental horror story, Gavin and the Green Knight is also seasonally apt, since the author straddles the period between Christmas day and the new year. Rudkin's interest in the myths of Britain makes him an ideal adapter. He has not always been the easiest of dramatists but his screenplay here is admirably clear and economical while never losing the symbolic edge of the story. In the way of a strong narrative. Although obviously lacking a Hollywood-sized budget, the production is often visually striking with a bold use of colour. Jason Durr plays Gavin as a brooding introvert who takes with intense seriousness the challenge of the green monster (Malcolm Storry) and the temptations of the Lady (Valene Goggin)



After his hunt the Red Lord, left, greets Sir Gavin (10.30pm)

- 12.00 Film: Tightrope (1984). Sordid drama starring Clint Eastwood as a New Orleans homicide detective tracking down a perverted sex killer. While studying the killer's traits, Eastwood is unnerved to discover the characteristics reflected in his own sexual impulses, and begins to doubt his own innocence. With Genevieve Buckle. Directed by Richard Tuggle
2.05am Film: The Nuclear Conspiracy (1986). Topical suspense thriller starring Britt Dill and Albert Forti. A criminal sees a billion-dollar shipment of nuclear waste as a potentially desirable target. Although the owners claim the consignment is travelling to a recycling plant in Australia, an investigative journalist (Mark Lee) believes otherwise. Directed by Rainer Erler
4.15 America's Top Ten
4.45 Forty Years On (b/w). The headlines of January 1941 included the dropping of bombs on London and the City of London fired by the Luftwaffe
5.15 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Art of Landscape. Relaxing music and images
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
10.25 Batman and Robin (b/w). Episode ten
10.45 The Adventures of Tintin. Part six of The Crab With the Golden Claw
11.00 Things to Come (r)
11.30 Tony Jackson's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. Round seven of the challenge between the Sportsman and the Entertainers. Today's guests are Mick Luckhurst and Norman Pace
12.30 Business Daily
1.00 Yachting: The Whitbread Round the World Race 1990. Highlights from the toughest challenge known to yachtsmen
2.00 That's Entertainment. Richard Cawley presents the first in a series of six programmes about preparing food for a special occasion (r)
2.30 Film: The Light That Failed (1938, b/w). Well-made but heavy-going drama based on Kipling's novel about a war correspondent (Ronald Colman) who is wounded during the Sudan campaign in 1885. He returns to London where he becomes a famous artist sharing a studio with a wartime friend (Walter Huston) through whom he meets a prostitute (Ida Lupino). With his sight failing due to the war wound, he has a race against time to complete Lupino's portrait. Directed by William A. Wellman
4.20 The Lion's Den. Silhouette animation
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers quiz game
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Emotional reunions between three generations of men who discovered late in life that they had an adult son 5.50 Mr Magoo. Cartoon
6.00 Kats & Allie. American comedy about two single parents who were together in the swingin' Sixties (r)
6.30 Desmond's. Sitcom about today's black Britons as reflected in Desmond's barber shop in south London (r)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Textlet)
7.50 Comment followed by Weather



In the British class system still with us? Ray Goeling (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Class by Class: The Aristocrat's Tale. CHOICE: The incomparable Ray Goeling puts on his old mac and goes in search of the British class system. He chooses six families from different parts of the social hierarchy to illustrate changes in class patterns since 1945. Perhaps sensibly, Goeling makes no attempt to define class but relies on our common perceptions of it. Few would question that the Glynns come from the upper reaches. They go back to the Earl of Darley who lost his head over Mary Queen of Scots. One of them says being called middle class would be the ultimate insult. Yet the stately home has been sold, the servants have gone and the grandmother, Lady Marquise, lives in a bedsit. Her daughter is an office worker and her grandson has forsaken the traditional family route from Eton to Oxford and goes to university in Manchester. Goeling is more self-effacing than usual but the material is strong enough to speak for itself (Textlet)
8.30 Film: Everybody's Baby: The Rescue of Jessica McClure (1989). Media-orientated drama based on the real-life rescue of an 18-month-old girl who fell down a well in Texas in 1987. The story focuses on the anxiety of the young parents played, with impressive realism, by Roxana Zal and Will O'Hara. Also starring Beau Bridges. Directed by Mel Damski
10.20 Film: The Thin Blue Line (1988). Documentary that proved to be a potent form of evidence when it won the freedom of Randall Dale Adams who was on Death Row for supposedly murdering a police officer in Texas. The irony is that after his release Adams successfully sued Errol Morris, the film's director, to regain his rights to his life story so he could pursue further film offers. A strange way of showing gratitude
12.15am Film: Breaking Glass (1980). Powerful and disturbing reminder of the punk music era in Britain starring Hazel O'Connor as a singer whose inability to cope with fame results in a breakdown. Phil Daniels plays her pushy manager and the band comprises guitarist Gary Tibbs and Mark Winget, drummer Peter-Hugo Daly and saxophonist Jonathan Pryce. Directed by Brian Gibson. Ends at 2.05

ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA
As London except 8.25pm-7.00pm Anglia News 5.00am from The Doctor 8.45-9.00 The TV Chat Show
BORDER
As London except 8.10pm-8.40pm Home and Away 8.00pm Lookaround Thursday 8.30-7.00pm News 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
CENTRAL
As London except 8.25pm-7.00pm Central News 5.00am from Green Isle 4.15pm Simon 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
CHANNEL
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
GRAMPAN
As London except 8.10-8.40pm Home and Away 8.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
GRANADA
As London except 8.30pm-7.00pm Granada Tonight 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten

HTV WEST

- As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
HTV WALES
As HTV West except 8.00pm-8.30pm Wales At Six
SCOTTISH
As London except 8.25-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
TSW
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
TVS
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
TYNE TEES
As London except 8.10pm-8.40pm Home and Away 8.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten

ULSTER

- As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
YORKSHIRE
As London except 8.10pm-8.40pm Home and Away 8.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
S4C
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
RTÉ 1
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten

4.30 Low And High 12.55am News 1.00am

- As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
NETWORK 2
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
SKY ONE
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
EUROSPORT
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
SKY NEWS
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten
SKY MOVIES
As London except 8.25pm-8.55pm News and Weather 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away 6.00pm Newsround 4.15pm Newsround 4.45-5.15pm America's Top Ten

RADIO 3

- 6.55am Weather and News
7.00 Morning Concert: Settle, orch. Debussy (Gymnopédie No 3; Toulouche Capote Orchestra under Passon). Fauré (Daphnis). Op 88; S. S. Scherzer, tenor; Robert Holt, bass, perform Von Deutscher Suite - a romantic cantata on programme and verses by Eichendorff, Op 29
7.35 Morning Concert (cont.) Rameau (Suite from Dardanus 1739; Orchestre of the 18th Century under Franz Bruggen). Haydn (Trio in C, Op 35 No 3; Barthold Kujken, flute; Sigwald Kujken, violin; Westland Kujken, cello). Castagnone-Tedesco (Concerto No 1 in D, Op 36 No 3 ECO under Charles Groves, John Williams, guitar)
8.30 Composers of the Week: Schubert (1824-8) Introduction and Variations on a Theme from Die Schöne Müllerin, D 802; James Galloway, flute, Philip Moll, piano; M. Abentrot, D 799; Gérard Souzay, baritone, Daniel Bédard, piano; String Quartet in A Minor, D 804; Melos Quartet
9.35 Capriccio: Mendelssohn (Sturm Symphony No 5 in B flat English Symphony Orchestra under Sauter). Scarlatti (Sonatas in F minor, Kk 19, in B minor, Kk 27; Chizum Watanabe, piano). Nielsen (Wind Quintet, Albin Wind Ensemble); Liszt (Sonata for Violoncello, Op 68; Watanabe, cello); Mendelssohn (Andante and Scherzo, Op 81; Melos Quartet); Ravel (Alborada del Gracioso; Ciseau Tristes, Watanabe); Mendelssohn (Capriccio and Fugue, Melos Quartet); Ciseau (Contra Alt Variations; Watanabe)
11.25 Britten Philharmonic under Simon Rattle performs Bartók (Music for strings, percussion and celesta), Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2)
1.00pm News
1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert, James Dower, flute and John Leman, piano perform Poulenc (Sonata); Tann (Ballade); Beethoven (Two Scottish Rhapsodies (Sonata in D, Op 54)
2.00 The Matinee Touch A portrait of the work of a page technique inspired many British pianists

SATellite

- 10.05-11.30 Slugs - The Movie (1988) (b/w) A comedy about slugs that is a hilarious and unrepentant American farce
11.30-12.30 Dead Fingers (1988) Jeremy Irons stars in a thriller about a man who is accused of a crime he didn't commit
12.30-1.30 The Young Doctors (1988) A medical drama about a group of doctors in a hospital
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By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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● SPORT 28-32

BUSINESS

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THURSDAY JANUARY 3 1991

Worry for Next as receivers go in at jeweller

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

EASTHOPE and Co, the jewellery chain that was formerly Next Jewellers, has gone into receivership with the loss of all its 350 workforce.

Easthope was a victim of the worst retail Christmas for a decade and the receivers say the collapse is a grim taste of things to come in 1991.

The demise of Easthope, bought by its management from Next for £9 million in November 1989, could damage Next, whose shares fell 2 1/2p to 13 1/2p yesterday.

Next sold Easthope to its management for an initial £6.5 million and a non-contingent payment of a further £2.5 million secured on the leasehold properties.

Next has demanded the return of all 47 of the 53 premises that were charged to them in respect of the unpaid consideration.

Next is likely to seek buyers for the closed Easthope stores, but sales of retail properties are poor at present and Next is still trying to offload some of its own surplus properties.

Next shares, which a year ago were trading at 80p, suffered from a bout of panic selling a fortnight before Christmas on false speculation that the group was in emergency talks with its bankers.

Maurice Withall, a partner in Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm, which along with Richard Betts has been appointed joint administrative receiver, said he deeply regretted having to make 350 people redundant on New Year's eve but had been left with no choice after Next had reclaimed the properties.

"We had wanted to try and sell the business as a going concern but that was impossible after Next decided to reclaim the shops. With no premises we had no business to sell from," Mr Withall said. He confirmed that he had

been a tentative approach to buy the business but that it had come to nothing. Mr Withall said it was not yet clear how much Easthope owed its creditors. Easthope's turnover was £10 million last year but suffered from poor sales and a particularly bad Christmas.

David McCarthy, retail analyst at Hoare Govett, said 1990 was the worst Christmas for the retail sector for a long time.

Boots the Chemist and Marks and Spencer, two of Britain's strongest retailers, saw sales decline in real terms over Christmas.

Both chains took more money over the Christmas period than they did last year but, after stripping out inflation, sales in volume terms were down.

Keith Wills, retail analyst at Goldman Sachs, said: "The gloom appears to be spreading. Last Christmas the stores selling consumer durables had a difficult time. This year nearly everyone on the high street experienced a tough Christmas."

Hoare Govett cut its profit forecasts yesterday for a number of retailers.

The broker's forecast for Boots has dropped from £375 million to £350 million with Sears down from £112 million to £97 million. Ratners down from £140 million to £125 million and Kingfisher down from £216 million to £205 million.

Boots said sales of pre-recorded videos, Christmas

cards and own brand toiletries were strong but French perfumes had a poor Christmas as shoppers chose less expensive items as gifts.

In volume terms, sales at Boots the Chemist are believed to have been about 3 1/2 per cent lower than Christmas 1989 but in cash terms they were 1.5 per cent higher.

Sir James Blyth, chief executive of the group, said: "Set against the increasingly severe background this is a creditable performance, but it is considerably lower than the target figure we set earlier in the year."

Childrens World had a strong Christmas, particularly in baby wear and children's clothes, and sales were substantially ahead of last year.

Halfords, the car parts business, is still experiencing difficult trading conditions but achieved a small increase over last year's Christmas sales. Boots shares fell 10p to 310p.

Marks and Spencer said it had pushed sales ahead at Christmas in cash terms but analysts said they were likely to be lower in volume terms. Sales of lingerie, knitwear and character merchandise such as children's clothes featuring Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles, were strong.

Food sales in the last two weeks before Christmas were also good.

Ratners Group and Storehouse are due to issue a Christmas trading statement today.

Stock market, page 20



Crowning glory: Eric Morley yesterday announced his purchase of Miss World for the third time. He is paying Trans World £800,000 cash

Morley makes it a hat trick with Miss World

By MARTIN WALLER

MANY might find it hard to imagine why anyone should want to own it at all. But Eric Morley and his wife Julia have bought Miss World, holder of the eponymous beauty contest, for the third time. The purchase, for £800,000 cash, is from Trans World Communications, which acquired the company by reverse takeover in 1988.

Since then the relationship between Mr Morley, inventor of *Come Dancin'*, and Owen Oyston, Trans World chief executive, has become increasingly strained. And the fortunes of both the beauty contest and Trans World's main business, several local radio stations, have been on the slide. The stations have been hit by the

decline in advertising revenues and the group's mounting debts; the contest has been relegated for two years running to a late-night television slot more usually occupied by less popular soaps. It needs £1.24 million of provisions to cover projected losses for 1990 in Trans World's latest half-year figures.

Mr Morley, aged 72, is paying £600,000 now, with two instalments of £100,000 due in 12 and 24 months respectively. He leaves as chairman of the debt-laden Trans World and he and his wife leave the board.

They are finding the purchase money themselves at first, while looking for investors to take on 40 per cent of the company and its debts.

"Even if they don't we shall do the whole thing ourselves," said Mr Morley. "We would have to sell assets or place assets at risk."

The Morleys have a 7 per cent holding in Trans World, worth just less than the total consideration for Miss World. "We don't intend to sell our shares at the moment, but it is an option," Mr Morley added.

They first bought Miss World, invented and launched 40 years ago by Mr Morley, in 1979 for \$1 million, then sold two thirds of the equity to Belhaven, the brewer. In 1982, they bought the stake back for £675,000.

The contest is shown worldwide, but British TV insiders have decided it is more suited to less sophisticated

tastes. Mr Morley says he aims to return the company to profit this year and is looking for sponsors and overseas TV outlets. His repurchase offers "another new lease of life again".

His former partner disagrees. "I don't think it's got a future in its current form," said Mr Oyston, whose aim had been "to get away from the sexist bias as far as possible". He had wanted to use international stars such as Michael Jackson as the centrepiece of an extravaganza focusing on fashionably green causes. But, "Eric didn't really want to go down that route", Mr Morley was more diplomatic. Trans World's decision to concentrate on radio had made a sale inevitable, he said.

Five Spurs directors may face prosecution

By JONATHAN PRYNN

DIRECTORS of Tottenham Hotspur plc, the parent company of the football club, could face prosecution from the trade department "in a matter of weeks" for failing to produce a set of accounts within seven months of its May 31 financial year-end.

The deadline for producing the accounts passed on New Year's eve, when the company staged a chaotic annual meeting to comply with a company law requirement to hold a shareholders' meeting each calendar year. The meeting was adjourned and will not be reconvened until the company produces reports and accounts for last year.

Tottenham is £12 million in debt, has broken the covenants on its borrowings and has forecast a loss for the 1989/90 financial year.

A spokesman for the DTI said that if no satisfactory answer is forthcoming from the Tottenham directors, the department would seek individual prosecutions of each of the five plc directors, Douglas Alexiou, acting chairman; Ian Gray, chief executive; Frank Sinclair, Tony Berry and Paul Bobroff.

Contrary to our report "Spurs shareholders ruled off-side", published on Tuesday, Irving Scholar, the chairman of the football club, was present at the annual meeting of Tottenham Hotspur plc on December 31. We apologise.

Bush acknowledges that America is in recession

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration has publicly acknowledged for the first time that America is in a recession likely to last until the summer.

"We're in a slowdown economically in this country, if not recession," President Bush said in a television interview in which he assessed the overall slowdown as short and mild. "In some areas, we're clearly in a recession."

Many private economists believe America has been in a recession for several months, although the administration has refused to use the word for fear of unnerving consumers and business leaders.

The federal government will release its first estimate of gross national product for the fourth quarter at the end of the month. A recession is widely defined as two consecutive



Boskin short downturn quarters of negative economic growth.

Michael Boskin, the president's senior economic adviser, told NBC News the American economy "probably has entered a recession" after an unprecedented seven years of economic expansion. The chairman of Mr Bush's council of economic advisers said

he believed the downturn "will be relatively short" and that the worst quarter was probably October-December.

In the interview, recorded more than two weeks ago, Mr Bush said he saw "no evidence of a deep recession" but agreed with most economists that "the recession will be mild and that the whole country will come out of it in not too many months from now".

The Wall Street Journal reported that the administration is using a preliminary economic forecast to prepare the fiscal 1992 budget that shows the economy slumping at an annualised rate of 3.4 per cent the most recent quarter and at 1.3 per cent in the first three months of this year.

Clubbank, America's largest bank, Morgan Guaranty and a few regional banks cut their prime lending rate to 9.5 per cent from 10 per cent.

Lamont campaign boosts pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound had a good first day in the 1991 market, extending its gains of New Year's eve enough to persuade some analysts there could be scope for a modest interest rate cut this month.

Sterling's resilience surprised economists, who had been predicting downward pressure, given the gloomy forecasts for the economy.

But this week's campaign by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to reassure the markets

of his commitment to the fight against inflation, while ruling out devaluation within the exchange-rate mechanism, improved sentiment for sterling.

The pound closed 1.5 cents higher at \$1.9430 in London, reflecting poor economic data and falling interest rates in America, and gained nearly half a penny to DM2.8912, having come close to DM2.90. On its trade-weighted index, the pound ended 0.1 up at 93.8.

The money markets meanwhile interpreted Mr Lamont's message as ruling out an early interest rate cut. The benchmark three-month interbank rate accordingly closed 1/8 firmer at 14 1/4-1/4 per cent.

Paul Chertkow, foreign exchange strategist at Citibank, believes Mr Lamont's rhetoric will help the pound to DM2.90. With retail price inflation down in December, he thinks a half-point base rate cut is possible this month.

Power issue delayed by problems at NatWest

By OUR CITY STAFF

AS MANY as 13,000 share certificates and cash refunds from last month's flotation of the 12 regional electricity companies are apparently still in the hands of the registrars because of a computer error by National Westminster, one of the banks handling the issue.

Worst hit are thought to be investors who applied for shares in the two Welsh companies, South Wales and Manweb, whose registrar is Barclays Bank. Advisers to the float say the majority of angry phone calls concerned those shares, among the most popular with investors who chose companies where they were not customers.

Barclays itself blames the NatWest, saying that the latter's use of computer buffers meant that tapes containing investors' addresses were garbled. The problem is restricted to applicants who wanted shares both in either of the two Welsh companies and in one of the four where NatWest is the registrar - Eastern, Midlands, South West and Yorkshire.

Lloyds, which administers the share registers of the other six, says there is a similar problem for investors in one of its companies and one of those handled by NatWest. NatWest admitted to a problem with the computer tapes it sent to the other registrars. A spokesman said there had also been delays for some people who applied for shares in companies with registrars other than NatWest.

Holmes to sell assets to pay debts of £62m

By MARTIN BARROW

HOLMES Protection, the troubled American security company whose shares are listed in London, failed to repay debts of \$18 million on deadline and has started talks with its lenders to avert a cash crunch.

The company is proposing to sell operations in New Jersey in 1989 to Alert Centre for up to \$18.5 million as part of a scheme to pay down total borrowings of about £62 mil-

lion. The transaction requires shareholder approval. Operations in Long Island, New York, are also on the market.

Holmes also said it will receive \$2 million after settlement of legal action in connection with the purchase of the company from its former owners. Holmes' shares were unchanged at 4p, valuing it at £2.7 million. After its flotation in London in 1987, the shares peaked at 189p.

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Alex Lawrie

Comecon feels the chill wind of change

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

EAST Europeans begin the new year facing sharply higher food and petrol prices as the forces of economic change sweep across the Comecon countries after the switch from rouble to hard currency trading on Tuesday. Some governments have also started phasing out price subsidies on consumer goods.

Rouble-denominated trade worked on the basis of the transferable rouble, an artificial currency, to which each Comecon currency was pegged at a constant rate of exchange. Over the years the terms of trade worked to the advantage of the Soviet Union's trading partners, who were guaranteed cheap and stable import prices.

In Czechoslovakia, where economic reform has so far been conducted in a cautious manner, price subsidies on all but essential items are being scrapped, a measure introduced to coincide with the internal convertibility of the *koruna*, which allows Czech companies to exchange domestic earnings into hard currency to import goods from abroad. In his New Year address, President Václav Havel admitted that the economic recovery would be more painful than was thought initially and that the privatisation process might also happen at a slower speed than envisaged.

"What a year ago seemed to be a dilapidated house is in fact a ruin. Everybody knows that sacrifices are necessary and there is no other way," he said in speech broadcast on Czechoslovak television.

Consumers in Hungary are being hit even harder as they face price rises of up to 35 per cent for basic

foodstuffs and household goods, including milk, sugar, flour, rice and chemicals. The country is now expected to suffer high inflation, rising unemployment and deteriorating industrial relations.

Yesterday, Hungarians had a taste of things to come as the morning traffic came to a standstill when rail workers launched a two-hour strike in protest over pay. A full-blown strike is expected soon if no agreement is reached.

Even in the Soviet Union, where economic reform has stalled, price rises have been forecast for this year by Anatoly Komin, the first deputy head of the state pricing committee. There is likely to be a significant rise in the prices of most consumer goods, especially food. Others, such as domestic household appliances, cars and television sets are also expected

to rise by about 50 per cent. The economic situation is exacerbated by energy problems. The Soviet Union this year will reduce cheap oil supplies to its neighbouring countries by about half, forcing increased dependence on dearer world supplies.

There is also growing uncertainty over domestically generated nuclear power because of safety concerns.

In Bulgaria, queues at petrol stations have been eliminated altogether after the government announced a two-week halt to petrol sales.

Poland began abolishing most price subsidies last year, but will soon face a 1 per cent rise in the price of petrol as a direct result of the Soviet crackdown on cheap energy. Poland went through most of the birth pains of the free market already, as the majority of price subsidies were abolished last year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Stores under pressure as profit forecasts are cut

SHARES in the main store groups have come under the hammer amid fears among City analysts that the cash tills have not been ringing as loudly as they should have.

Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, started the ball rolling with two profit downgradings for Boots in one day. Hoare cut £10 million from its original forecast of £375 million first thing and then lopped a further £15 million to £350 million after the group gave a warning that sales had fallen short of target. Last year Boots made £342 million. Trading was disappointing throughout November and the early part of December. Boots responded with a fall of 12p to 308p.

The news from Boots also prompted Hoare to reduce its forecasts for at least six other retailers. Hoare has cut its estimate for Asda from £198 million to £180 million, Burton from £95 million to £70 million, Kingfisher £216 million to £205 million, Raters from £140 million to £125 million, Sears from £112 million to £97 million and Store-

BOOTS: falling short of sales target

The graph displays two data series over a 13-month period from January to January. The Y-axis represents price/index values from 220 to 360. The 'Share price' is shown as a solid line, and the 'FTA All share price index (Rebased)' is shown as a shaded area. The share price starts around 280, dips to 260 in April, peaks at 320 in June, and then fluctuates between 280 and 300. The FTA index starts at 220, peaks at 340 in November, and ends at 320 in January.

Month	Share price	FTA All share price index (Rebased)
Jan	280	220
Feb	275	230
Mar	270	240
Apr	260	250
May	270	260
Jun	320	270
Jul	300	280
Aug	290	290
Sep	280	300
Oct	290	310
Nov	300	340
Dec	290	330
Jan	290	320

house from £35 million to £30 million. Asda fell 3p to 116p, Burton 3p to 74p, Kingfisher 5p to 366p, Bataern, due to unveil its own trading statement any day, 17p to 58p, shares 1p to 84p, and Storehouse 9p to 113p. There were also falls for Dixons, 9p to 131p, Great Universal Stores A, 10p to £10.55, Marks and Spencer, 3p to 220p, Next, 2 1/2p to 13 1/2p, and WH Smith A, 8p to 37 1/2p.

General apathy, combined with the growing threat of war

in the Middle East, left share prices looking depressed after the first day's trading this year. The FT-SE 100 index ended 152 points lower at 2,128.49 after being almost 200 points lower, while the FTSE index of 30 shares lost 18 at 1,655.7. Turnover remained thin, but was artificially inflated by a small programme trade that included a line of 1.2 million British Telecom, 4p down at 280p. A total of 234 million shares were

The banks were rattled by the increasing problem of bad debt. Sir John Quinnton, chairman of Barclays Bank, said that he expects British banks to make provisions totalling £2 billion in their 1990 accounts. He said bad debt problems were arising and would be every bit as bad as the previous year.

Barclays fell 9p to 353p. Lloyds 5p to 291p, Midland 6p to 181p and National Westminster 2p to 265p. Royal Bank of Scotland also lost 3p at 157p and TSB Group, with figures next week, 4p at 132p.

Guardian Royal Exchange continued to reel from Monday's profits warning with a fall of 4p to 178p. The group is also selling its loss-making Italian interests. The rest of the sector was marked down on deteriorating weather con-

THE £7 billion Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will today announce its merger with the £760 million Portsmouth Building Society. The 85,000 Portsmouth investors should receive a bonus of 2 per cent and the 20,000 borrowers may receive a small discount on their mortgage payments. The merger, between the sixth and 26th largest societies, will not add to the acquisitive C&G up the society league table but will improve its distribution network on the south coast. The Portsmouth has a reputation for riskier lending and has been hit by the downturn in the Southeast property market. Its arrears are higher than the C&G's, which influences the size of discount offered to borrowers.

South Water buys Longley

SOUTHERN Water is widening the product range and geographical coverage of its Watercare subsidiary with the acquisition of MW Longley for £460,000. Longley, based in Folkestone, Kent, designs heating and ventilation systems. Southern Water said it is part of its strategy of enlarging its range of services.

Lex sells two US holdings

LEX Service, the automotive and electronic components distributor, has disposed of two of its American-based "non-strategic" businesses. Lex has sold Richey/Impact Electronics to a consortium of investors for about \$10.5 million and LCS to Pioneer-Standard Electronics for an undisclosed sum.

EFT sells subsidiary

Winkelhaak to hold costs

WINKELHAAK, the South African gold mining company, says it will raise heavy taxes to maintain 1990 gold production levels and to contain working costs this financial year. In the year ended September, production rose 12 per cent to 12,692 kg. Working costs rose 2.3 per cent, but the average net price rose only 1.2 per cent.

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BIRMINGHAM Mint, the West Midlands coin maker and engineer, has taken the unusual step of naming a price at which it would recommend a takeover offer from hostile bidder, IML.

Birmingham Mint has rejected DM's final increased offer of 95p but said it would accept 110p if the current offer lapses. This would depend on the consent of the Takeover Panel and the new offer being made within four months of the first offer lapsing.

The move, believed to be without precedent in UK cor-

porate finance, follows Birmingham Mint's announcement that it has been in talks with a German company about a possible deal thought to put a value on its shares of between 105p and 110p.

Under Takeover Panel rules, IMI could make a new offer three months after the initial offer had lapsed, provided it was recommended.

Tony Cross, chairman of Birmingham Mint, said the company's latest defence move was an attempt to give shareholders an indication of

the real value of the company as opposed to "a price set by one Scottish institution". Dunedin, the Scottish fund manager, sold its 15 per cent stake to IML in the market at 95p on the announcement of the increased offer.

IMI now controls 45.8 per cent of its target, including 38.6 per cent purchased in the market and is likely to have passed 46 per cent per cent by

Birmingham Mint is urging shareholders who have accepted the IMI offer to withdraw their acceptances.

There were also losses among the life insurers, with Britannic down 5p at 642p, Legal & General 6p at 354p, Lloyds Abbey 4p at 326p, London & Manchester 3p at 313p, Refuge Assurance 5p at 597p and Sun Life 10p at £11.00.

Ariva Petroleum was unchanged at 13 3/4p in spite of confirmation that oil from the Toroyaco-2 well in Colombia was now flowing at 450 barrels a day, removing lingering doubts about its viability as a commercial field.

In July, news that Aviva had drawn water instead of oil at Toroyaco sent its shares crashing from 45p to 28p. Speculation about drilling progress has caused further falls.

Smith New Court, the company's broker, believes that the three Colombian fields in which Aviva has an interest contain a total 70 million recoverable barrels of oil and estimates Aviva's net asset value at 24p a share.

MICHAEL CLARK

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Daily Jones	263.61 (+4)
S&P Composite	330.05 (+0)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	3031.34 (+4)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	531.10 (-4)
FT-SE Eurotrack	78.8
Amsterdam:	
CBS Tandancy	1265.6
Sydney:	
ASX 100 DAX	1993.10 (-3)
Bremen:	
General	4013.94 (-4)
Paris: CAC	408.99 (-1)
Zurich: SRA Gen	1025.98 (+1)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	1025.98 (+1)
FT-100	1113.29 (-5)
FT-Airline	155.9 (+1)
FT Food Interest	30.59 (-3)
FT Govt Secs	82.17 (+)
Bergans	23
SEAO Volume	23
USM (Datastream)	111.67 (-)

* Denotes latest trading price

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:	
Thomson Corp	745hp (+10p)
Br Borneo	822hp (+10p)
Whetman	390p (+15p)
High-Point	322hp (+10p)
FALLS:	
Reichman	547hp (-10p)
Ward	202p (-20p)
Estates & General	90p (-25p)
Antiochists	310p (-0p)
J Smurfit	486hp (-5p)
Shandwick	501hp (-9p)
Grand Met	865hp (-9p)
Gunnness	750hp (-0p)
Berkeley	352p (-10p)
Royal	379hp (-13p)
Radcliff Metal	60p (-0p)
Boots	209p (-12p)
Hatmen Group	155p (-17p)
Accident	457hp (-14p)
Glaco	537hp (-1p)
Reuters	693hp (-8p)
Clothing prices	

EQUITIES	
Atlantic Resources	37
Aberforth Smc Cos	98
Braziant Res	155-1
CNW Group	28
Castle Claim (50p)	32
CSX Tst	41-1
EFM Jones Tst	55-1
Boos	81-4
Excibur Gp	44
Fabor Press	145
Gordon Vale	51-2
Invergordon	137

Unit

Loveland	95
MAI	18
Maryland Capital	27 1/2
Midland Radio	102
Pearsonoff	9 1/2
Pearsonoff	86
Pelican Gp	29 1/4
Proseus Int'l	91
Simon Healthcare	141
St James Place	66
Stratus IT	55
Stand Platform	180
Tr Euro Gwth	85 1/2
Uti Energy	1 1/4

Udo Uniform	98
Unichem	117 -1
Wig Tpe App	178 -4

● See main prices page for Electricity shares

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cumlex Hedges N/P	3 1/2 - 1/2
Control Tech N/P	15 -42
Tuskar Reef N/P	1/2 - 1/2

(futures price in brackets).

Page 28

Unit Trust Prices appear on page 28

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 93.8 (day's range 93.7-93.9).

[illegible]

OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina austin*	11115.6/11121.6	Indonesia	1.7896-1.7898
Australia dollar	2.5045-2.5091	Israel	1.7375-1.7382
Bahrain dollar		Malaysia	2.7038-2.7048
India rupee	250.357-357.358	Malta	1.2323-1.2319
Cyprus pound	0.83-0.84	Netherlands	2.1670-2.1580
France franc	6.55-6.56	Norway	4.8996-5.0000
Germany mark	90.301-90.305	Norway	5.8420-5.8470
Hong Kong dollar	16.1261-15.1379	Sweden	6.2328-6.2410
India rupee	54.90-54.91	Switzerland	1.4857-1.4887
Japan yen	160.34-160.35	Switzerland	1.2807-1.2817
Malaysia ringgit	5.2420-5.2520	Netherlands	1.8500-1.8910
New Zealand dollar	0.6925-0.6930	Denmark	6.4600-6.4620
New Zealand dollar	0.6927-0.6930	Japan	154.15-154.25
Saudi Arabia riyal		Italy	1122.5-1123.5
Singapore dollar	3.7373-3.7378	Spain peseta	166.63-166.70
S Africa rand (fin)	8.4981-8.5133	Hong Kong	7.7940-7.7950
S Africa rand (com)	8.4940-8.4946	Hong Kong	133.00-133.20

MONEY RATES (%)

[illegible]

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990 Agreed rates

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES						
	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 81	2177.0	2187.0	2164.0	2185.0	28800
Previous open interest: 28234	Mar 81	2165.0	2175.0	2162.0	2172.0	19000
Three Month Sterling	Mar 81	87.51	87.61	87.18	87.51	80000
Previous open interest: 71185	Mar 81	87.51	87.51	86.95	87.51	10000
Three Month Eurodollar	Mar 81	85.70	85.72	85.61	85.58	10000
Previous open interest: 11025	Mar 81	85.68	85.65	85.60	85.68	14000
Three Month Euro DM	Mar 81	92.75	92.75	92.65	92.68	14000
Previous open interest: 87189	Mar 81	92.75	92.80	92.71	92.75	7600
US Treasury Bond	Mar 81	96.34	96.35	96.34	96.44	9100
Previous open interest: 5588	Mar 81	96.28	96.45	96.28	96.44	10000
Long Gold	Mar 81	96.40	96.40	96.30	96.38	10000
Previous open interest: 24388	Mar 81	96.40	96.40	96.30	96.38	10000
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 81	96.40	96.40	96.35	96.38	10000

COMMODITIES

[illegible][illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
October 17	January 4	March 27	April 8

Declarations were made out since 2/1/81 Arden Energy, N.L. Laboratories, New Brunswick.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stand. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash	Div
1	Sherrill & Fisher	Building/Rentals	100	100
2	Almest	Industrials A-D	100	100
3	Yard Group	Breweries	100	100
4	BTI Ltd (excl)	Industrials A-D	100	100
5	Danco (Golding)	Industrials A-D	100	100
6	Butterfield & Swire	Tobacco	100	100
7	Dynon	Industrials A-D	100	100
8	Beaumont	Paper/Print/Ad	100	100
9	Hammerhead	Property	100	100
10	Essexport (excl)	Oil/Gas	100	100
11	Groceries King	Breweries	100	100
12	Westpac	Bank/Discount	100	100
13	East Data Process	Electronics	100	100
14	Devenish (UK)	Breweries	100	100
15	ARMW Corp	Electronics	100	100
16	Asparto Int'l	Industrials L-R	100	100
17	LASMO Int'l	Oil/Gas	100	100
18	Bank of Asia	Finance	100	100
19	Beaufort	Industrials A-D	100	100
20	Mang Bros	Industrials L-R	100	100
21	Westley	Industrials S-Z	100	100
22	Tonkins	Industrials S-Z	100	100
23	AAF Int'l	Industrials A-D	100	100
24	Recon Hotels	Hotels/Catering	100	100
25	Or Western Res	Oil/Gas	100	100
26	Holmes & Co	Electronics	100	100
27	Ultramar Int'l	Oil/Gas	100	100
28	AB Elect	Electronics	100	100
29	Hickman	Chemicals/Pha	100	100
30	Valeo	Electronics	100	100
31	Coal Pk	Oil/Gas	100	100
32	Prup Security	Property	100	100
33	New Corp	Newspaper/Pub	100	100
34	Ntho Foods Int'l	Food	100	100
35	Lillicoll	Industrials L-R	100	100
36	Leeds	Textiles	100	100
37	McIntyre	Property	100	100
38	Hardy O & G	Oil/Gas	100	100
39	Avon Rubber	Industrials A-D	100	100
40	Crown Furnishers	Drugs/Stores	100	100
41	Ferguson Int'l	Paper/Print/Ad	100	100
42	Cycle Pk	Oil/Gas	100	100
43	Tantal	Electronics	100	100
44	New Asia Bk	Bank/Discount	100	100
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total				

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

Three readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. Dr David Belasco, of Swaffham, Norfolk, Mr Cyril Davidson, of Frinton, or Eastbourne, and Mr Donald Brierley, of Weymouth, Dorset. Each receives £666.66.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High Low Stock Price Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change
1	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	100	100	100
11	100	100	100	100	100
12	100	100	100	100	100
13	100	100	100	100	100
14	100	100	100	100	100
15	100	100	100	100	100
16	100	100	100	100	100
17	100	100	100	100	100
18	100	100	100	100	100
19	100	100	100	100	100
20	100	100	100	100	100
21	100	100	100	100	100
22	100	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	100	100	100
26	100	100	100	100	100
27	100	100	100	100	100
28	100	100	100	100	100
29	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	100	100	100
32	100	100	100	100	100
33	100	100	100	100	100
34	100	100	100	100	100
35	100	100	100	100	100
36	100	100	100	100	100
37	100	100	100	100	100
38	100	100	100	100	100
39	100	100	100	100	100
40	100	100	100	100	100
41	100	100	100	100	100
42	100	100	100	100	100
43	100	100	100	100	100
44	100	100	100	100	100
45	100	100	100	100	100
46	100	100	100	100	100
47	100	100	100	100	100
48	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change
1	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	100	100	100
11	100	100	100	100	100
12	100	100	100	100	100
13	100	100	100	100	100
14	100	100	100	100	100
15	100	100	100	100	100
16	100	100	100	100	100
17	100	100	100	100	100
18	100	100	100	100	100
19	100	100	100	100	100
20	100	100	100	100	100
21	100	100	100	100	100
22	100	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	100	100	100
26	100	100	100	100	100
27	100	100	100	100	100
28	100	100	100	100	100
29	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	100	100	100
32	100	100	100	100	100
33	100	100	100	100	100
34	100	100	100	100	100
35	100	100	100	100	100
36	100	100	100	100	100
37	100	100	100	100	100
38	100	100	100	100	100
39	100	100	100	100	100
40	100	100	100	100	100
41	100	100	100	100	100
42	100	100	100	100	100
43	100	100	100	100	100
44	100	100	100	100	100
45	100	100	100	100	100
46	100	100	100	100	100
47	100	100	100	100	100
48	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change
1	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	100	100	100
11	100	100	100	100	100
12	100	100	100	100	100
13	100	100	100	100	100
14	100	100	100	100	100
15	100	100	100	100	100
16	100	100	100	100	100
17	100	100	100	100	100
18	100	100	100	100	100
19	100	100	100	100	100
20	100	100	100	100	100
21	100	100	100	100	100
22	100	100	100	100	100
23	100	100	100	100	100
24	100	100	100	100	100
25	100	100	100	100	100
26	100	100	100	100	100
27	100	100	100	100	100
28	100	100	100	100	100
29	100	100	100	100	100
30	100	100	100	100	100
31	100	100	100	100	100
32	100	100	100	100	100
33	100	100	100	100	100
34	100	100	100	100	100
35	100	100	100	100	100
36	100	100	100	100	100
37	100	100	100	100	100
38	100	100	100	100	100
39	100	100	100	100	100
40	100	100	100	100	100
41	100	100	100	100	100
42	100	100	100	100	100
43	100	100	100	100	100
44	100	100	100	100	100
45	100	100	100	100	100
46	100	100	100	100	100
47	100	100	100	100	100
48	100	100	100	100	100
49	100	100	100	100	100
50	100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED									
25%	20%	Connects	24%	23%	●	..	..	..	..
61%	54%	Corn	31%	57%	●	..	6.0	..	..
41	33%	Connects	4%	37%	●	..	..	..	..
25%	20%	Truss	24%	23%	●	..	..	..	..
32%	22%	Truss	3%	26%	●	..	..	..	..
32%	22%	Truss	1%	23%	●	..	..	..	..

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

BWRDD CROESO CYMRU
WALES TOURIST BOARDSenior Marketing
DirectorBased in Cardiff
Salary of up to £35,000
plus performance awards

The Wales Tourist Board is the statutory body responsible for promoting and developing the tourism industry in Wales but has a commercial approach to its role. The Senior Marketing Director is a new post to direct both the Board's marketing within the UK and the work it undertakes with the British Tourist Authority to market Wales overseas. Reporting to the Chief Executive, the post holder will be a member of the Board's Senior Management Team and will be expected to contribute to the corporate work of the Board.

The successful candidate will need to have a proven track record in marketing and an appreciation of what is required to market the tourist industry of Wales successfully, recognising the importance of Wales' environmental and cultural heritage. The Board has pursued a cost effective and carefully targeted approach in key markets working closely with private and public sector partners. It is seeking a person with imagination and drive who can build upon and develop what has been achieved to date.

The post is offered on established terms. Alternatively, a contract may be negotiated for a set period.

The Board is an equal opportunity employer. For further information about the post please write or telephone the Chief Executive of the Board, Paul Loveluck at:

Brunel House
2 Fitzalan Road
Cardiff CF2 1UY
Tel: (0222) 475208

To apply, send a full CV by Friday, 18 January. The confidentiality of all applications will be respected.



Terinex is a leading manufacturer of food-related disposables and specialised wrapping products sold for both catering and domestic use. We hold the BS5750 Quality Approval Certificate, and have won a Queens Award to industry for our export achievements.

We are now looking for a

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

to spearhead our sales and marketing team in achieving our aim of substantial and profitable growth in the 1990's.

The commercial Director will be joining as one of the top three people in a company where the current senior management team has worked together for a good number of years. Terinex has achieved success through a friendly willingness to utilise the strengths of each team member for a common purpose. The successful candidate will:

- be educated to degree level or similar, possibly with additional qualifications or languages and certainly with an international outlook.
- Have had sound training and experience in marketing and/or sales, preferably in an industry related to our own.
- be able to demonstrate ability by reference to past achievements.
- relish the challenge, individual scope, and opportunity which only a senior position in a smaller company can offer.

An attractive remuneration package in excess of £30,000 will be offered. If you are the right person, ring Mary Barrett from today on Bedford (0234) 240550, or from 2nd January on 384411; she will then send you a full position description, further information about our company, and an application form.

Terinex Ltd, Hamon Road, Elms Industrial Estate, Bedford, MK41 0ND.

EAST QUAY MEDICAL CENTRE
PRACTICE MANAGER

Bridgwater, Somerset. Manager needed for modern General Practice. 20 Staff, 8 Doctors, 13,000 patients. Challenge of GP fundholding to come in 1991/92. Start March 1991.

Both Business/accountancy and personal skills are needed. Previous NHS experience is not essential.

Attractive salary (above normal level for this post) £17,000 to £21,000 p.a.

For application form and information ring/write Mrs Criddle, East Quay Medical Centre, Bridgwater, Somerset. Telephone 0278 423474 or Fax 0278 445448 by 17th January 1991.



URGENTLY SEEKING...
ENTHUSIASTIC HARD WORKING AMBITIOUS PERSON
We are a rapidly expanding Central London based Agency and therefore require someone with a proven track record in recruitment. No experience of negotiating necessary as full training will be given. Applicants need to possess sense of humour and the will to succeed in this strenuous but fun environment.
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CALL NICOLA DYER NOW ON 071 287 4011

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90 Gloucester Place, W1. Telephone: 071-935 5452 (24 hrs).

We're rapidly changing
the Life Sciences -

Can you take the pace?

Quadrant was the world's first company to successfully identify and use a unique, natural drying and stabilization process for the preservation of important biological molecules and cells at ambient temperatures. Today, the company is on the brink of introducing exciting "firsts" into many biological product areas. Close links with academia and a range of corporate alliances add a special level of importance and interest to every position in the company.

We are seeking the following talented R & D and marketing individuals who wish to make a significant impact on the development and success of a small but rapidly expanding life science company. There are also openings for research scientists in serology, molecular biology, diagnostics and therapeutics who wish to make a move into a more innovative and faster moving research environment. Salaries are negotiable and will be tailored to reflect your potential contribution to the success of the company.

PRODUCT MANAGER - DIAGNOSTICS
Responsible for heading up marketing related activities for the development, production, promotion and distribution of novel blood group typing and diagnostic products, you will have the vision to exploit Quadrant's revolutionary technology to the full and the ability and drive to attain rapid market success. This is a unique opportunity to build your own product line and team of specialists. Prospects for promotion are excellent.

You will require excellent resource management, interpersonal and management skills. Four years international product management experience in medical diagnostics or a related area and knowledge of the U.S. health care market are prerequisites. Blood Bank or Transfusion Service experience would be an advantage. Proven negotiation skills are essential. It will be necessary to travel extensively worldwide.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - DIAGNOSTICS
You will be instrumental in taking Quadrant's first blood group typing products through their final stages of development and into manufacturing. In addition, you will be a major driving force in the development of totally innovative diagnostics - made possible with Quadrant's stabilizing technologies. This is a rare opportunity to expand and mould a team of scientists to fit your requirements, exactly. Reporting to the Director of R & D and liaising closely with Marketing, you will have a considerable impact on product strategy.

You will have a proven track record of success in diagnostic product development including at least two years of project and team management. Energy and enthusiasm are essential together with the ability to focus, single mindedly on agreed objectives. Experience in blood group serology is required.

SENIOR SCIENTIST - SEROLOGY
You will provide expert scientific advice together with hands-on laboratory support to the product development team. A specialist in blood group serology, you will liaise with blood banks, clinical and service laboratories to ensure that Quadrant's products match the requirements of the market place. This is an excellent opportunity to build a leadership position for yourself in the application of novel dry reagent systems to blood group serology.

You will have at least four years at a senior level in serology either in blood banking or a clinical laboratory environment. The ability to rapidly implement new technologies and ideas to solve technical problems is essential. Excellent interpersonal and presentation skills are required.

To apply, please send your curriculum vitae to:
Dr. David C. Chivers, Quadrant Holdings Cambridge Ltd,
Cambridge Research Laboratories, 161A Huntingdon Rd,
Cambridge CB3 0DJ, England.

QUADRANT

International Confederation of Midwives

Applications are invited for the post of Secretary General, based at the London headquarters of the Confederation.

Qualifications: A midwifery certificate/diploma, with additional evidence of experience and/or understanding of midwifery, preferably from a broad perspective.

Assets: Ability to work alone and plan schedules; objective, open approach to all aspects of maternal and child health, and midwifery education and practice; secretarial and administrative skills, including typing; high standards of oral and written communication skills in English; knowledge of another language an advantage; flexibility for occasional weekend work and occasional work abroad.

This post will be full-time. Salary and employment contract to be negotiated with successful applicant. Detailed job description available, on request, from the Treasurer, International Confederation of Midwives, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 4PH. Telephone 081-994-6477. Interviews will be held on March 1st 1991.

Closing date: February 8th 1991.

DIRECTORS

To secure the best appointments at senior level needs more than good advice, accurate career objectives and succinct presentation. InterExec not only provides career advice to successful executives but also retains the unique facility of our subsidiary company InterMex to bridge the critical gap between counselling and the right job. InterMex maintains a data base which comprises 6,000 unadvertised vacancies per annum, providing the unique confidential 'InterExec' Service.



If you are considering a move or need a new challenge then telephone (071-930 5041) for an exploratory meeting without obligation.

InterExec Plc
Landseer House,
19 Charing Cross Rd,
LONDON WC2H 0ES.
Tel: 071-930 5041

INTEREXEC The service offered by InterExec is free and can be used independently of the Consulting Service.

SENIOR MANAGERS

SALES PERSON

Immediate requirement of textile expert. Should have the background as a Salesperson. Preferably pure silk minimum 5 yrs experience on salary and incentives for sales in the UK and leading European Countries.

Apply to: Leaderwick Ltd
Mr Arvind Khanna.
Tel 071 584 2263 & 071 225 3641

London Central YMCA Ltd
112 Great Portland Street
London WC1B 3AQ
requires

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT c£20K

We are the largest YMCA in Europe and our operation includes a 9000 member sports club, a 7 & 8 D department training facilities in Health related fitness, childcare, a counselling service, to 18 very specialist and extensive support for a variety of projects in the UK and overseas. With a turnover of £2.5m we are establishing our own Accounts dept. in April 91 and this position will entail finalising the setting up of the department and the division and control of staff and procedures to provide full support to the above and their managers. Candidates should be in sympathy with the aims and purposes of the YMCA, be in their final stage of CIMA or CACA and possess the drive and commercial expertise to provide the leadership, support and advice required in such a multi faceted organisation. Application with CV to Joe Balasanto by 17th January 1991.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGERS AND
DIVISION MANAGERS
IN CONSULTANCY

Pera is one of Europe's most successful independent technology and management centres, providing consultancy and development services to a wide range of companies.

With over 300 staff and an annual turnover in excess of £20m, Pera enjoys continuing expansion fuelled by the increasing demand for our services, and our ambitious plans for the future. This has created several opportunities at a senior level for experienced people to assist in our growth and to shape our future.

We seek three Business Development Managers who will work in a small central team of senior people, and who will have responsibilities in the areas of Manufacturing Consulting, Marketing and Business Planning, and Engineering Design and Development. In the former two areas we also require equally experienced individuals to manage the respective operating divisions.

You will need a good appropriate degree, several years' experience in consultancy, contract R & D or similar environment, and be able to demonstrate a good record of personal achievement.

We are looking for exceptional individuals who wish to further their careers in a progressive and growing organisation. We recognise that you will expect to receive a corresponding remuneration and benefits package. For further information, please forward a CV and any other relevant information, quoting reference number 50/90, to Mike Thompson, Pera, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0PB.

PERA

Data Base Officer

£15,432 to £19,656

A diligent and conscientious computer literate administrator is required to take charge of maintaining and updating the Corporation's Invitations Database.

The main functions of this new post will be checking published sources of information and updating the database by typing in the changes and resolving queries relating to information in the database.

Other duties will relate to the regular checking of information, completing information where entries are incomplete, extracting data in response to requests by Members and Officers, carrying out routine house-keeping tasks on the system and acting as a focal point for the co-ordination of the system. Applicants must be able to communicate with Members, and Officers at all levels.

The postholder may also be expected to become involved in testing new releases of software and future development of the system.

Education to 'A' level or equivalent is preferred but experience and personal qualities are as important.

Full particulars and an application form, can be obtained from the Town Clerk, Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ. Telephone 071-260 1174.

The closing date for applications is 28th January 1991.



CORPORATION OF LONDON

CHAUFFEUR/
USHER

Required by Italian Embassy.
Fluent Italian and English
essential. Competitive
remuneration. For further
information and application
form please call at No. 14, 3
King's Yard (Clarendon Street),
London, W1, between
10 am and 12.30 pm.

Director...
but needing a job

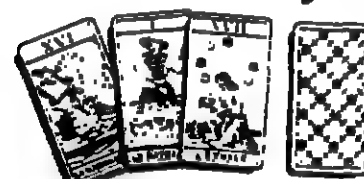
By working together we have total commitment to finding you the right job. Our methods of introduction lead to hundreds of opportunities at senior level from City appointments through a wide range of industries. £40,000-£70,000. Continued support from start to finish. Flexible Government loan available to assist you with fees. Call us on 071-488 1324 to learn how we can help you help yourself.

Management Career
Consultants,
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London EC3N 4HA

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CAN YOU SELL?

Are you enthusiastic, motivated?, enough to come along to The Novotel Hotel, Shortlands, Hammersmith Broadway, W6 on January 10th? Do you want to earn at least £3,000 per month and drive a new car? Have you the dedication required to be part of a nationwide sales team selling brand new concept in advertising? There will be on the hour presentations followed by open interviews at the Novotel. Phone Ray on 0941 100507 to find out more.

What does the
New Year hold
in store for you?

It's hardly surprising that people like to have the true potential when they get on in the new year. It's only natural to want to start the new year with a new challenge. At CHUSID LONDON we are sure that whatever you're looking for, the challenge you want is just another day. We are a group of people who are passionate about what we do. For many years we have been helping people to achieve their dreams - men and women, earning £20,000 a year and their true potential and making their future dreams a reality. We've been successful in helping them and we can do the same for you.

To arrange an early confidential appointment without obligation, telephone your nearest office (24 hour answer phone in all offices) or send us your CV.

LONDON 071-580 6771 MANCHESTER 061-228 0089
REDDITCH 0527 68888 LEEDS 0532 426182
CHIPPENHAM 0249 651720 GLASGOW 041-332 1502
EDINBURGH 021-452 8380 LOUGHBOROUGH 0508 611226

CHUSID LONDON

35/37 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 5AF

RANK EDUCATION
SERVICES LIMITEDOPERATIONS
MANAGER
(ABROAD)

Circa £24K + car
Berkhamsted, Herts

Rank Education Services is a subsidiary of The Rank Organisation and operates in school travel with 30,000 customers annually.

A new abroad department is being set up and an Operations Manager is now required to head up all aspects of contracting, financial planning and day to day liaison with customers and suppliers. Fluency in French and German is required and previous experience essential.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to The General Manager, Rank Education Services Ltd., Castle Mill, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2AP. Mark envelope 'Private & Confidential'.

Are YOU one of the MANY looking for a New Career...

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inTuition Management Services are presenting 1 DAY WORKSHOPS to be held at EASTHAMPTON PARK, Wokingham on JANUARY 19th & 26th 1991.

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE...
LET 1991 BE THE YEAR FOR YOU!

For further information please contact inTuition Management Services, 4/11 Ray Park Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 8DP, 0628 776384

ADMINISTRATOR

£26,000 plus Bonus

London headquarters of major US law firm wishes to appoint an experienced, Senior Administrator who can act as liaison with Washington and administer facilities, personnel and financial matters for the Partnership. Age 30 plus, graduate calibre with relevant commercial experience essential.

Telephone 071 489 0889/071 236 2522
Fax 071 236 8299

Recruitment Consultants

CAREER
DESIGN

BANKING AND ACCOUNTANCY

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER,
KENYA, c£40k

Our client is a well established distributor of telecommunications equipment based in Nairobi, Kenya. The company employs around 70 staff and has an annual turnover of £1.3m.

We are seeking to recruit an experienced financial controller who will be responsible for all aspects of the company's financial operations as well as some administration. The successful individual will be seen as a key member of the senior management team and will report to the MD and the Board.

The financial controller is responsible for the production of monthly and annual accounts, budgets and cash flow forecasts as well as the maintenance of accounting records for an overseas trading corporation. The post will be offered on an initial 2-3 year fixed term contract.

The ideal candidate will have had relevant financial experience at a senior level, not necessarily with a company based abroad. He/she will demonstrate a proactive approach, will be computer literate and a good manager of people. A formal qualification is desirable but not essential. It is unlikely that individuals under the age of 30 years will have gained sufficient experience to undertake this role successfully.

The social and sporting life in Kenya is excellent and the usual expatriate financial benefits will be negotiated.

Saffery Champness

Consultancy Services Ltd

Applications in the form of a

CV to Shirley Ann Spencer,

Personnel & Training Manager,

Saffery Champness

Consultancy Services Ltd.,

Fairfax House, Fulwood Place,

Gray's Inn London WC1V 6UB.

MORTGAGE CONSULTANTS

CENTRAL LONDON

Our client is one of the most respected Mortgage Brokers in the U.K.

We are seeking individuals that meet the following criteria, to be part of what can only be described as one of the most exciting opportunities for a long while;

You are a member of FIMBRA or have experience with at least two major Life Offices as an Appointed Representative.

With a thorough understanding of the Mortgage and Life Assurance industry. You will be able to work effectively under pressure, maintaining a steady sense of humour at all times. The necessity of being of smart appearance is obviously at its utmost.

In return our client will offer a highly motivated environment along with prestigious offices, as well as an excellent salary package.

Call now to register your interest.

Aysgarth Selection & Recruitment
0268 591411

Licensed by The Department of
Employment No: 19644

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

LANDING
GEAR
OVERHAUL
FACILITY

Dowty Aerospace Aviation Services Pte Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Dowty Group.

The major expansion of Dowty's facilities in Singapore and the establishment of a dedicated wide-body Landing Gear Overhaul Center, has created employment opportunities for the following positions:

MACHINE SHOP
SUPERVISOR

Interested candidates will need to have a strong machine shop supervisory background, with a minimum of 5 years' hands-on experience in milling, drilling, turning and grinding high strength steel. He must also have a working knowledge of CNC operated machines and possess basic programming skills.

PLATING SHOP
SUPERVISOR

The successful candidate must possess the ability to supervise a multi-tank plating facility and have an in-depth knowledge of chrome, nickel and cadmium plating, with a minimum of 5 years' experience plating high strength steel. He must also be able to design and assist in the manufacture of anodes and fixtures.

A highly attractive compensation package commensurate with experience and ability will be offered to the successful candidates. Please write in with details of resume including current and expected salary and telephone contact no to:

The Personnel Manager
Dowty Aerospace Aviation
Services Pte Ltd
Tampines PO Box 339
Singapore 9152

QUEENSWOOD SCHOOL
ACCOUNTANT

Applications are invited for this new post, to be filled in January 1991.

Working directly with the Bursar, the Accountant will be responsible for the school's accounts and financial administration.

Salary: Up to £20,000 per annum plus pension and BUPA.

Familiarity with computerised accounting systems is essential. The post would suit a part-qualified accountant or fully qualified AAT.

Written applications including full C.V. and names of two referees to The Bursar's Secretary, Queenswood School, Shepherd's Way, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 6NS.

KNOW ANY GOOD ACCOUNTANTS?

We are a small but rapidly expanding general practice with progressive ideas, and are looking for a qualified chartered or certified accountant to be based at our TIVERTON office with the following:-

1. An ability to deal effectively with people
2. Good all round experience in an accounting practice
3. A bias towards tax work and computers
4. Ambition coupled with maturity

If you think you 'fit the bill', then we have an opening which could lead to a partnership within two years.

If you are interested and want more information then please apply, with CV to:

Richard Parkyn
6 Queens Terrace, Exeter, EX4 4HR.

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Visiting qualified & experienced internal audit specialists nationwide.

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THE INTERNAL AUDIT SPECIALISTS

ENGINEERING

oxford digital

Oxford Digital is a small independent Research & Development company specialising in the design of professional audio equipment. We are located in new premises four miles from the City of Oxford.

SOFTWARE DESIGN ENGINEERS
in DIGITAL AUDIO

We are looking for self-motivated engineers who will be responsible for a variety of design projects. Applicants should have the ability to work with the minimum of supervision, and some knowledge of professional digital audio equipment would be an advantage. Successful candidates will probably have a degree followed by 2-5 years experience as:-

C & UNIX

Digital Audio

Real Time Software

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Software Control of Devices

Generous salaries will be offered together with the opportunity to use the most modern hardware & software tools in a friendly atmosphere.

Please send a CV to Emma MacLachlan at Oxford Digital Ltd, Oasis Park, Eynsham Oxford OX8 1TP, or telephone 0865 383772 during office hours. Office re-opens 02 Jan 91

Ref ST-02

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Zoula School
(R.S.A. examination centre)

in Corfu requires qualified teacher to teach computer literacy and office technology as soon as possible. Salary 120,000 Drachmas plus free accommodation.

Apply by express letter to:
Zoula School, 49109 Sarona, Corfu.
Fax 0651 33834.

SENIOR CONSULTANT
to 25k

We are seeking a Senior Consultant with extensive experience in the field of...

The successful candidate will have a degree in engineering or a similar qualification...

or previous work with a major company in the field of...

experience in the field of...

experience in the field of...

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TTS/91/2

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued from previous page

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Anglo-German Foundation
for the Study of Industrial Society

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Continued on page 13

Progress on bypass route to a rejuvenated heart



Professor Desmond Julian demonstrates a defibrillator, which restores normal rhythm by giving a shock to a chaotically fluttering heart

Open-heart surgery was in its infancy and transplants were unheard of when the British Heart Foundation was formed in 1961. The therapeutic use of drugs capable of dissolving the blood clots that trigger heart attacks was also about 25 years away.

The treatment of heart disease has changed beyond recognition during the intervening three decades, says Professor Desmond Julian, the consultant medical director of the heart research charity, which celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year.

One example of the comparatively primitive state of the art in the early days was the absence of coronary care units in hospitals until 1962. In the early Sixties, the chance of death from a heart attack in hospital was 30 per cent, compared with 10 per cent today. The breakthrough came with the advent of closed-chest cardiac massage and defibrillators, devices designed to give a controlled electric shock to the fibrillating, or chaotically fluttering, heart to

Malcolm Brown begins a three page special report with the latest in surgical techniques

restore normal rhythm. This is a great improvement, but there is no room for complacency. The death rate from heart attacks outside hospital is still enormous. Professor Julian says, "If you take a patient who has a heart attack at home, something like a third will die, most before they get to hospital."

The foundation is contributing to attempts to cut that figure radically by helping to equip all emergency ambulances with defibrillators that can be operated by ambulance staff. Nearly 90 per cent now have them.

"We know that last year in England 1,000 people were successfully resuscitated outside hospital by the ambulance service with defibrillators," Professor Julian says.

Acute cardiac care is the emergency end of the business, but there have also been big strides in the medical and surgical treatment

of heart disease and in research into its prevention.

Transplants have, of course, always captured the public imagination, but the greatest number of patients helped has probably been achieved by bypass surgery, in which obstructed coronary arteries are circumvented by a bypass graft. The operation has probably been the greatest surgical innovation of the past 30 years.

"About 15,000 a year are done in this country," Professor Julian says, "and that has had an enormous impact on the relief of symptoms in patients with coronary disease."

One of the most important aspects of bypass surgery for the prospective patient is that the risks have been reduced greatly since the early days. In the late Sixties, mortality was between 5 and 10 per cent. Today it is about 1 per cent.

The development of better

procedures for supporting the circulation during surgery has brought about this radical improvement.

Professor Julian emphasises that the biggest impact on heart disease must be made by prevention. He says: "Even in this country, although it has lagged behind the United States, the number of deaths from coronary disease has gone down substantially in the past few years. That is probably a combination of lifestyle changes, predominantly giving up smoking, and the effects of medical treatment."

There are causes for hope and concern. Professor Julian says there is evidence that the fall in the incidence of coronary disease in the A and B socio-economic groups, in which so many have stopped smoking, is much greater than among manual workers, a high percentage of whom continue to smoke. Perhaps the most worrying group, he says, are young women. "They have been specifically targeted by the tobacco industry," he says.

Arteries are just like domestic water pipes, says Dr Michael Davies, professor of cardiovascular pathology at St George's Hospital medical school, London, and, like water pipes they develop "furring", narrowing the lumen, the cavity through which the fluid flows.

In the case of the arteries, the furring is caused by atheroma, a process in which the inner layer of the arteries is thickened and deposits of fat are laid down. These plaques or plates of fatty deposits grow and project into the lumen, narrowing the artery at certain points.

Blood is a carrier of energy to the body's tissues, so if the blood supply is cut off or restricted by narrowing of the tubes through which it flows, organs will suffer. The sufferers will include the heart itself, which, as the pump that sends blood around the rest of the body, is a big consumer of energy. The heart muscle needs less blood if you are at rest, and more when you exercise.

Professor Davies says: "In supplying other organs, particularly skeletal muscle in exercise, the heart has to use energy itself."

Heart problems arise when the plaques in the coronary arteries, the vessels that supply blood to the heart, grow big enough to cause a significant narrowing.

Blood flow through the narrowed lumen may be sufficient for a patient who is not exerting himself, but when he exercises, demanding more energy and therefore more blood, the system cannot cope.

The heart muscle is being asked to take on an excess workload to supply energy to the muscles being exercised, and it demands more blood to enable it to do so. However, the extra blood cannot be delivered because of the narrowing of the artery.

"Then you get pain," Professor

Keeping the lines open

Like water pipes, arteries can develop 'furring', which may cause heart problems

Davies says. "The heart muscle has to start to work under anaerobic conditions and it 'shouts'. The way heart muscle shouts that something is wrong is chest pain."

This is what is known as stable angina. The patient develops chest pain when he exercises or does any of the other things, such as getting angry or excited or cold, that increase the need for blood flow. Stable angina is unpleasant and debilitating, but not fatal. Blood clots, by contrast, can be life-threatening.

In certain circumstances, a blood clot, or thrombus, may develop over the plaque quite suddenly. If that happens, blood flow is blocked.

The relationship between atheroma and thrombosis is not fully understood, but is important - it is virtually unknown to get thrombosis of a normal, unfurred artery.

"The importance of atheroma," Professor Davies says, "is, first, that it causes narrowing, and, second, that it predisposes to acute thrombosis, a severe event."

Scientists want to know why the plaque becomes pro-thrombotic, the professor says, and also how

the thrombus can be prevented. If it is not prevented - and the body, incidentally, is quite clever at devising its own mechanisms to dislodge thrombi - a "major coronary event" may follow.

The most serious events are myocardial infarction, or heart attack, the process in which part of the heart muscle dies from lack of blood supply, and ventricular fibrillation, in which the chambers of the heart go into an electrical quiver and the heart stops.

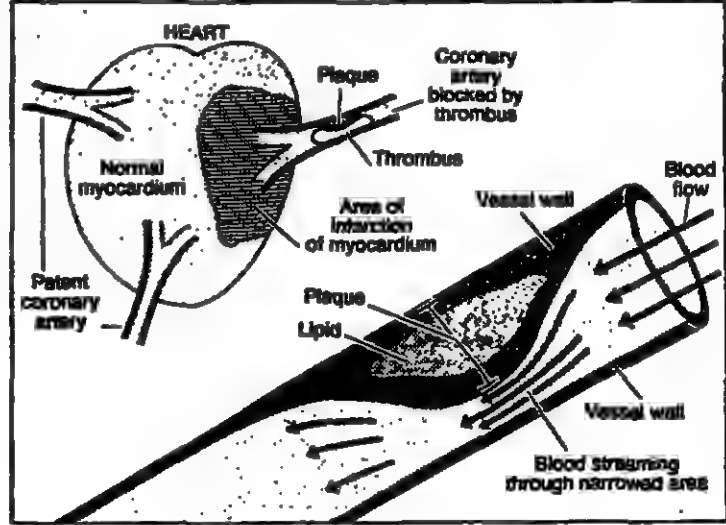
Death may or may not follow myocardial infarction, depending on how extensive it is. Each coronary artery serves a different region of the heart muscle. A thrombus in one will completely cut off blood supply to the region of the heart that it serves.

If the blood is not restored, within about 15 minutes the affected section of the muscle dies. The dying heart muscle cells can actually trigger ventricular fibrillation.

"In their dying agonies," Professor Davies says, "the cells create a turmoil of abnormal electric activity, which can induce the whole of the muscle, even that which has a normal blood supply, to go all a-quiver. Since the heart is not beating, the patient instantly becomes unconscious and dies."

The only real chance for a patient with ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation, the administration, with special equipment, of a controlled electric shock, which restores normal heart rhythm. Doctors now know a lot about the disease process involved in atheroma and in events such as myocardial infarction.

The next phase, with which scientists are getting to grips, Professor Davies says, is identification of the patients at risk and reduction of those risks. "That," he says, "is where the excitement lies."



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 - Industry and commerce lose 70 million working days a year because of heart disease.
 - The British Heart Foundation raised more than £29 million last year, mostly from donations. Nearly 90 per cent of annual income is spent on research, education and equipment.

"Only old people get heart disease."

Old people do get heart disease. But then again, over 5,000 babies were born last year with congenital heart conditions. Babies who have never smoked cigarettes, eaten junk food or touched a drop of alcohol. Babies who are just too young to have done any of the things we know can lead to heart disease.

The fact of the matter is that many thousands of people (not just babies) develop heart disease through no obvious fault of their own.

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Hope from organs made by man

The mechanical heart, an artificial organ that can perform all the functions of the natural heart over a long period, could be a reality early next century. Experts such as the transplant surgeon Sir Terence English, the president of the Royal College of Surgeons, are cautiously optimistic.

"It would not be unreasonable," says Sir Terence, choosing his words carefully, "to think that within ten years we might have an artificial device that could be almost completely implanted, might last for several years and be reasonably effective."

Cardiac surgery has already come a long way in a short time. The specialist is still less than 40 years old. The first open-heart operations were performed in the Fifties. Before that, surgeons had operated "blind", using closed-heart surgery. During closed-heart operations, circulation continued through the patient's heart, and the interior of the heart was not inspected.

Open-heart surgery, in which the patient is artificially sustained by a heart-lung machine allowing the surgeon to operate on the stopped heart and to expose the cardiac chambers, represented a new era. Most of the standard techniques now used by heart surgeons are of even more recent origin. The first few years of open-heart surgery were spent refining the basic techniques to make the work more reliable.

After that there were probably four main developments in cardiac surgery:

● Valve surgery. The first artificial, man-made valve — a simple ball-and-cage type — that actually worked was devised in the early Sixties. By 1962, several surgeons had started using valves taken from dead humans and inserted in living patients. Surgeons now use animal tissue treated so that the body cannot reject it.

● Bypass surgery. Coronary arteries, the vessels supplying the heart muscle with oxygen and energy, can become

Patients could be receiving artificial mechanical hearts within ten years, a surgeon predicts



Sir Terence English: optimist

blocked by fatty substances. In bypass grafts, the surgeon uses another blood vessel from the patient's body to bypass the blockage. The first bypass was done in the late Sixties. By the late Seventies, doctors realised that veins taken from the leg were not lasting long and today most surgeons prefer to use the internal mammary artery, which runs inside the chest wall.

● Children's hearts. Surgeons learnt how to operate on the hearts of very young children. This depended on a growing understanding of the functional anatomy of very small hearts. Interest in this type of surgery began in the late Sixties. Most of the advances had been made by the end of the Seventies.

● Transplants. The first heart transplant, by Dr Christian Barnard, was performed in 1967. A year later, there were 60 different units worldwide, although most had stopped by the early Seventies, having realised how difficult transplantation was. Advances in

detecting and treating rejection of the transplanted organ were made in the Seventies and by the Eighties there was a revival of interest.

More than 300 heart transplants and almost 100 heart-lung transplants take place every year in Britain, but demand for organs is greater than supply.

Experts believe that heart surgery developments may now be less dramatic, more incremental. The long-term artificial heart, however, may change heart surgery significantly.

Sir Terence says: "There are still a large number of people who die with defective heart muscles for which there are no operations other than heart replacement. Heart replacement by transplantation does not cover the lot because we do not have enough donors and never will."

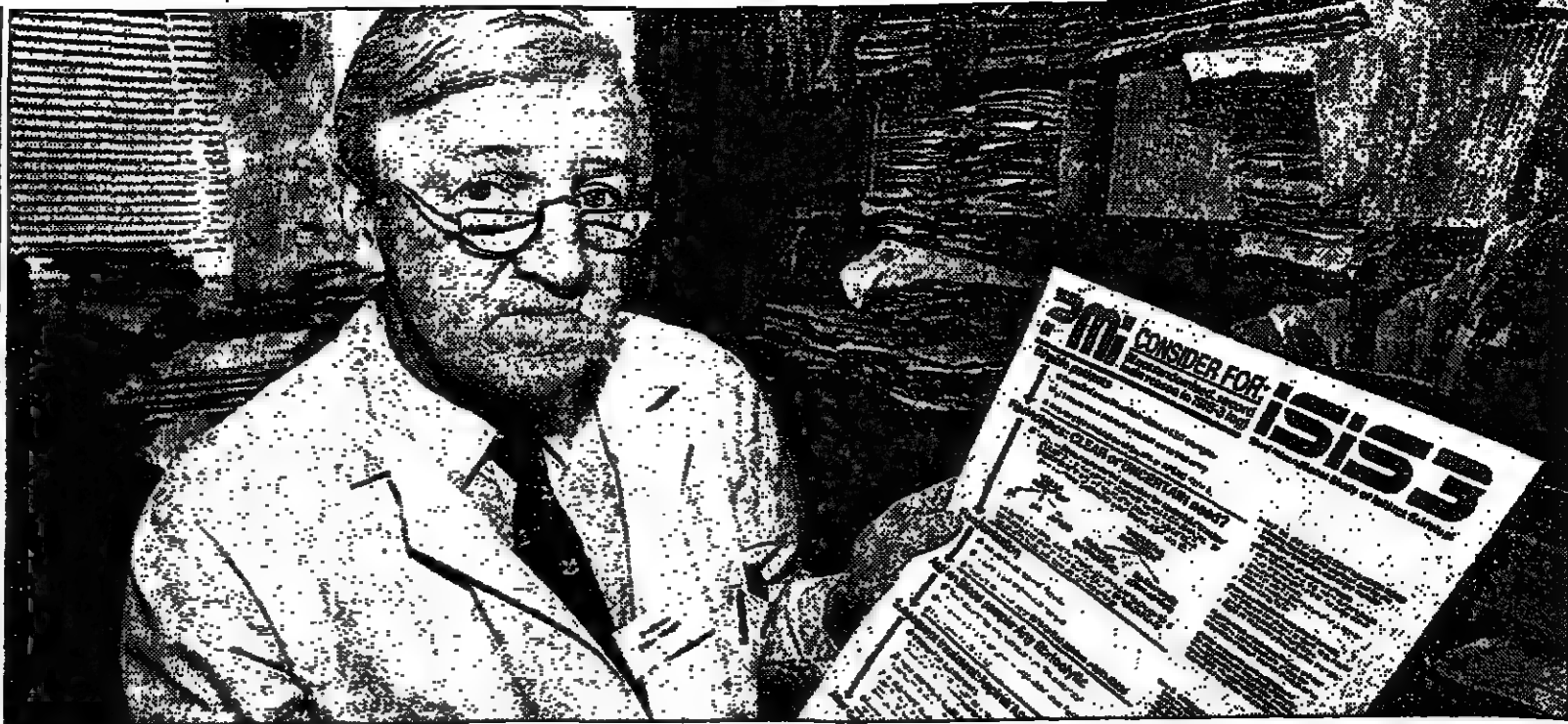
"Therefore, if those patients are going to be kept alive, the mechanical heart could provide that possibility. But it has quite a long way to go yet."

Existing artificial hearts, used primarily as stopgaps until a donor is found, are not the answer. What is needed is a mechanical pump that would work for a long time. Researchers are working on the idea in the United States, Germany and Japan, and scientists in Britain are becoming interested.

Surgeons hope that the initial high cost of such devices will not put people off, although the expense is certain to provoke criticism.

Sir Terence says: "What has to be answered is whether it is effective. If not, you should forget about it. If it is effective, even if it starts being quite expensive, you can make a case for pursuing it, as we did with heart transplantation."

"Within five years we were able to show that in cost-benefit analysis terms it compared not unfavourably with some of the other acknowledged, accepted, historically defined areas of medical treatment. If we had not been allowed to pursue it, we would never have got to that stage."



Medicine's biggest trial: Professor Sleight shows the wallchart to be used in ISIS-3, a 50,000-patient study to find the best drug for dissolving clots

Drugs which dissolve the blood clots that obstruct coronary arteries and cause heart attacks, have changed the nature of cardiology.

Clinical trials in the Eighties showed that if the clot-dissolving drug streptokinase was used as soon as possible after heart attacks, deaths dropped by more than a fifth. If aspirin, which makes the blood less liable to clot, was added, the effect was even greater. Deaths in hospital were cut by between a half and a third, depending on how quickly the treatment was started.

The process had actually been described almost 30 years earlier when researchers growing a sample of the bacterium streptococcus in the normal manner, on a blood-containing plate, found that as the bug grew it dissolved the blood. Further research showed the enzyme streptokinase as the active agent.

There were many small-scale trials, but few gave clear evidence of benefit and many no benefit. Even among doctors who knew about the streptokinase effect, enthusiasm was tempered by evidence of bleeding, where, for example, a clot covering an ulcer was dissolved. That changed in the Eighties, says Professor Peter Sleight, professor of cardiovascular medicine at Oxford, and one of the

The clot-busters

Lives are being saved by treatments discovered in the Eighties, including the application of ordinary aspirin

leading researchers in the field.

The changed attitudes followed some remarkable research by one of Sleight's postgraduate students, Salim Yusuf, working in association with two Oxford epidemiologists, Richard Peto and Dr Rory Collins.

The researchers re-analysed all previous trials and found that although separately they showed no significant effect, when analysed together, a very different picture emerged.

Professor Sleight says: "The researchers reckoned that

when they added up all these trials, they had 22 per cent fewer deaths in the streptokinase-treated group compared with the placebo group." Two large-scale trials involving a total of 30,000 people confirmed this.

One of the trials, known as GISSI, was co-ordinated by a pharmacologist in Milan. Professor Sleight's team, co-ordinated by Dr Collins and Mr Peto, ran the other, ISIS-2, from Oxford. The Oxford trial, involving more than 400 doctors in 16 countries, produced another surprise.

Professor Sleight explains:

"We put in aspirin. At that time, it was recognised, but not universally, that an aspirin a day might keep the doctor away if you took it after a heart attack. But practically nobody was using it in the immediate emergency treatment of a heart attack."

The result from aspirin was as extraordinary as that from streptokinase. The ISIS-2 trial showed that aspirin by itself reduced mortality by a fifth. "That the humble aspirin was nearly as good as this clot-dissolving mechanism was a remarkable result," Professor Sleight says.

"The combination added up, so that if you got people early you halved the mortality of a heart attack. First of all the streptokinase chews away at the clot, and then the aspirin stops more clot-forming."

When a clot is dissolved, the body reacts by making the platelets — sticky, disc-shaped structures in the blood — even stickier. "So unless you use aspirin to attack the platelets sticking to the clot, as fast as you are dissolving it the body is trying to gum it up again."

The two trials have had a great impact on medical practice. Professor Sleight estimates that about 90 per cent of heart attack patients entering hospital receive aspirin immediately. Streptokinase, however, is still not as widely used as it should be, particularly in the United States, probably because there is still a risk.

"You might save 20 or 30 lives a thousand if you use streptokinase, but you will cause three or so bleeding episodes, and some of these can be life-threatening and disabling," Professor Sleight says.

The Oxford group is now organising ISIS-3, a 50,000-patient study to discover the best of three clot-dissolvers — streptokinase, anistreplase, a variant of streptokinase, which is inactive until it is injected, or tPA, a genetically engineered substance widely used in the US.

The ISIS-3 results will be presented in March. Its organisation, co-ordinated from Oxford by Dr Collins, has been a feat in itself, says Professor Sleight, involving 1,000 hospitals in North and South America, Australasia and eastern Europe. "It is the largest trial ever done in medicine," he says.

HEART attacks result from a sudden blocking of the coronary arteries by a blood clot. Most of us have little fatty bumps in the lining of our coronary arteries from eating too much fat. These can crack, spontaneously or in response to a stressful rise in blood pressure. When such a crack forms, tiny white blood cells, the platelets, stick to it and try to gum it up. If the clot remains, blood starvation can

lead to the death of parts of the heart muscle or even the death of the patient if, for example, the blood-starved heart becomes irritable. Thrombolysis limits the damage by dissolving the clot and allowing the blood to flow freely again. Experts reckon that a dissolving agent works best if administered within four to six hours of the formation of a clot, but is still useful later.



Pfizer Limited at Sandwich is pleased to be associated with and sends congratulations to the BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

Pfizer is a leading diversified health care company with operations around the world. We "bring science to life" in a multitude of ways, directing our advanced research and development expertise to markets in which innovation is the key to success — pharmaceuticals, medical devices, consumer products, animal health, specialty chemicals and specialty minerals.

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At Sandwich in Kent Pfizer employs some 1850 people, of whom 850 are engaged in research which is mostly involved in the search for new and more effective human medicines. The particular emphasis on heart disease research at Sandwich has resulted in the introduction of two major new cardiovascular products which have been made available in many countries during the last two years.

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Leaders in the research and treatment of hypertension, angina and thrombosis congratulates The British Heart Foundation on 30 years of campaigning against heart disease



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The marvel of making a repair to an unborn child

By the time the human foetus is 18 weeks old, doctors using ultrasound scanners can tell with considerable precision whether its heart has been properly put together. The organ measures only about a centimetre across, but will already have been fully formed for nearly three months.

The perinatal cardiology research group at Guy's hospital, London, specialises in diagnosing structural heart disease, the collective name for conditions in which the heart's component parts have been incorrectly assembled. Heart specialists used to think heart disease in the foetus was almost wholly concerned with such anatomical defects. But now, says the group's director, Dr Lindsey Allan, researchers are starting to recognise a different sort of prenatal problem, a mixture of structural and functional elements.

In these cases, a relatively minor defect may have important knock-on effects. An obstructed heart valve, for example, may cause secondary effects: when the

Doctors believe experimental foetal surgery to correct abnormalities will save lives and give children the chance to lead a regular life

ventricle, the heart chamber, pumps against the obstructed valve, the pressure inside it rises, limiting the amount of new blood that can flow into the chamber. This in turn prevents the chamber from growing normally.

Dr Allan says: "You then have the secondary development of a very small or hypoplastic chamber. What we have seen is, in early pregnancy, a relatively normal anatomy and evidence of a narrowing, then the anatomy becomes much more disordered as pregnancy has progressed."

The Guy's researchers have been able to identify progressive defects such as these because of the large number of patients they see. The unit handles about 200 abnormal foetuses a year.

Diagnosis has usually been done at 18 weeks. Now the unit has started a research project to see

how much useful information can be gathered at 14 weeks. If the abnormalities that are disclosed are severe and the outlook poor, the termination of the pregnancy is an option that may often have to be discussed.

In those circumstances, the earlier a diagnosis can be made the better.

Dr Allan says: "Most parents recognise that when the child has a poor prognosis for the long term they would rather stop and start again if the diagnosis is made early enough."

Dealing with foetuses where there is a severe abnormality is sad but the latest developments, such as the discovery that some of the conditions may be progressive, give the doctors hope for the future.

"What we have learnt about development brings us to the

possibility of therapy," Dr Allan says. "If a constricted valve, for example, is producing a secondary effect of underdevelopment of the chamber, which is, of necessity, fatal, the next idea is easy. If you can prevent this constriction from causing the secondary effect, can you change the whole progress?"

The most recent developments at Guy's have involved operating on the foetus before birth. Cardiologists had already learnt how to use a balloon catheter, a tube with a balloon on the end, to open up the heart valves of babies after birth. Doctors at Guy's reasoned that if the technology could be miniaturised, they would be able to use a hollow needle to get the catheter in place in the heart of the foetus.

"We have done it twice now," Dr Allan says. "Neither baby survived, but with the second one we were technically successful. We got the balloon into the correct place, blew it up within the valve orifice and got a perfect result from the valve splitting. But it was too late from the point of view of the damage to the heart muscle."



Hope for the future: Dr Lindsey Allan and one of her patients. Early diagnosis of defects is vital

Countering the deadly blood clots

Clots of blood can kill, so doctors want to know who is at risk and whether medical intervention can prevent the formation of clots. Research by scientists from the cardiovascular epidemiology research group at Northwick Park hospital, Harrow, has provided a simple way of indicating people who are at high risk. The Northwick researchers have found that raised levels of two substances in the blood, fibrinogen and factor VII, are associated with increased risk of heart attacks.

They followed the medical histories of a representative cross-section of more than 1,500 middle-aged working men in northwest London and found significant results, says the research group's director, Dr Tom Meade. "It showed that these two clotting factors, fibrinogen and factor VII, were strongly and independently associated with the risk of coronary disease later on."

The easier of the two to detect is fibrinogen, a soluble protein that is a precursor of fibrin, one of the key substances involved in the formation of blood clots.

Fibrinogen and factor VII are not just markers for coronary disease, Dr Meade says. They actually cause it.

"They are indices of risk, but indices because they are involved in causing the disease," he says.

Researchers have found a way to diagnose those patients most at risk, but finding a safe way to prevent clotting and heart attacks is more difficult

Having found a way of pinpointing high-risk patients, the researchers are now investigating ways of preventing clotting in them. Two drugs are thought to be potentially important: aspirin and warfarin.

Aspirin is already used for so-called secondary prevention, protecting people who have already had one heart attack from having another. But now scientists want to know whether it works in primary prevention, forestalling heart attacks in those who have not had them.

Two "primary prevention" trials on aspirin were carried out a few years ago, one on American doctors and the other on British doctors, but the results were confusing. The American study showed a big reduction in myocardial infarction, the death of a segment of the heart muscle. The British study showed almost none. If the results are pooled there appears to be about a 30 per cent reduction in infarction. However, there may be an increased risk of a stroke.

So the value of aspirin in primary prevention is still an open question, Dr

Meade says. He and his colleagues at Northwick Park are trying to find out whether smaller doses of aspirin than those used in the first two studies might be useful.

Dr Meade, who has set up a large trial, says: "The question of whether low-dose aspirin in primary prevention is effective against heart attacks without increasing the risks of stroke is a very real one and something we wanted to investigate."

The Northwick researchers are administering half the dosages of aspirin used in the American trial to high-risk men.

The study started about three years ago and will not be complete until 1996, but already the team has recruited 4,000

of the 6,000 high-risk patients required. Similar studies, using the same trial group, are being done on the anticoagulant warfarin.

Researchers treating heart attack patients with the clot-dissolving drugs streptokinase and aspirin have already found, during the so-called ISIS-2 trials, that, although they work well separately, they work most effectively when combined. Dr Meade's team wants to know whether there is a similar combination effect for warfarin and aspirin when used as anti-thrombotic agents.

"We feel that the indication of the ISIS-2 trial is that it is worth combining these two as well as looking at them separately," Dr Meade says.

Because aspirin and warfarin can cause unwanted bleeding if used in too big a dose in certain people, doctors have always insisted that the two should not be used in combination at conventional doses. But Dr Meade believes that it may be possible, using a lower dose, to avoid bleeding problems.

EXERCISE FOR LIFE

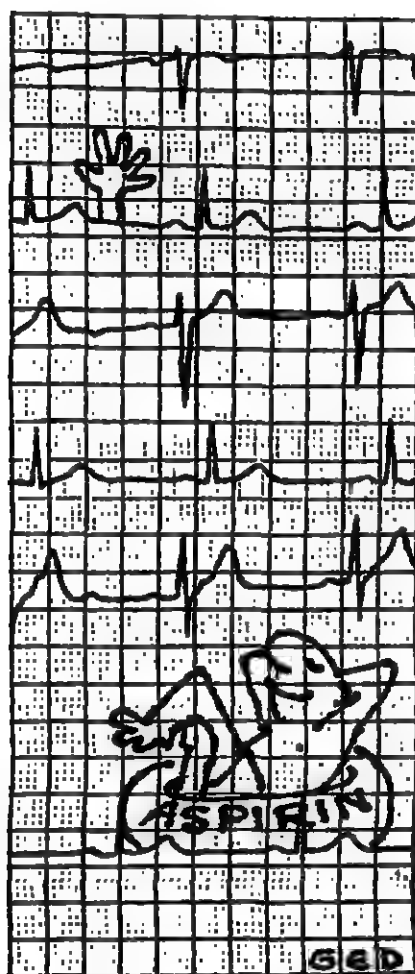
PROFESSOR Desmond Julian, consultant medical director of the British Heart Foundation, believes in practising what he preaches, and one of the messages he will be preaching loudly this year is that we should all exercise regularly and energetically.

The heart is the muscle that pumps oxygen-carrying blood around the body and the stronger it is the more blood it can pump with every beat.

"Exercise needs to be done regularly, say, three times a week for 20 minutes," says the professor, who himself walks and cycles as often as he can.

"It does not have to hurt, but it has to be vigorous enough to make you become a little breathless, because you need to get the heart pumping a bit harder and the muscles thoroughly mobilised."

One of the key campaigns run by the foundation in 1991 will be "Exercise for Life", which, as well as encouraging everyone to do a little more exercise, will focus on a large number of fund-raising exercise events, from sponsored cycle rides to celebrity golf.



THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO LOWERING THE DISEASE RISK FACTOR

DOCTORS commonly regard the main risk factors in coronary heart disease as:

- smoking;
- high blood pressure;
- high blood fats.

Nobody can guarantee complete protection against atheroma and heart attacks, but by taking measures to counter the known risk factors, the chances of getting heart disease can be lowered. The benefits would probably be greatest for those who are at highest risk and younger, rather than older people.

The basic advice on prevention is to:

- Stop smoking. Preferably never start. Chemicals such as nicotine and carbon monoxide may interfere with the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the heart and also with the normal

functioning of the heart muscle. Experts also believe that chemicals involved in smoking may make the blood more liable to clot.

● Lower elevated blood pressure. Salt and alcohol may be implicated in hypertension, so patients with high blood pressure may be advised to restrict intake of dietary salt and alcohol. High blood pressure can be treated successfully with drugs.

● Restrict intake of fats, especially from animal sources. Most people eat more fat than their bodies need. The evidence from worldwide studies suggests a striking link between heart disease and the amount of fat, particularly saturated fat, in the diet.

Almost everyone in the UK, because of the national diet,

has at least a background level of atheroma. Rubbing it out completely is probably unrealistic, short of a radical change in diet that would probably be unacceptable to most people. But that is not an argument for neglecting risk factors such as fat levels.

Many experts now believe

that, apart from their effects on atheroma, the cessation of smoking and lowering of fat intake may prevent the risk of thromboses.

If atheroma could be made less thrombotogenic (pre-disposing people to blood clotting), it would be less dangerous.

Heart disease

Our most substantial health-care problem in Britain today is coronary heart disease. It accounts for approximately 27% of all deaths, more than cancer, infections and accidents combined. More specifically, it is a major cause of premature death, especially among men, causing the death of one person under the age of 65 every 19 minutes.

Benefits from research

Given the scale of the problem, it is not surprising that huge research efforts are being directed towards the prevention of coronary heart disease. At the forefront of this research effort is Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited (MSD), a subsidiary of Merck & Co. Inc., the largest research-based pharmaceutical company in the world, with a research and development spend for 1990 of \$955 million.

To lower blood pressure

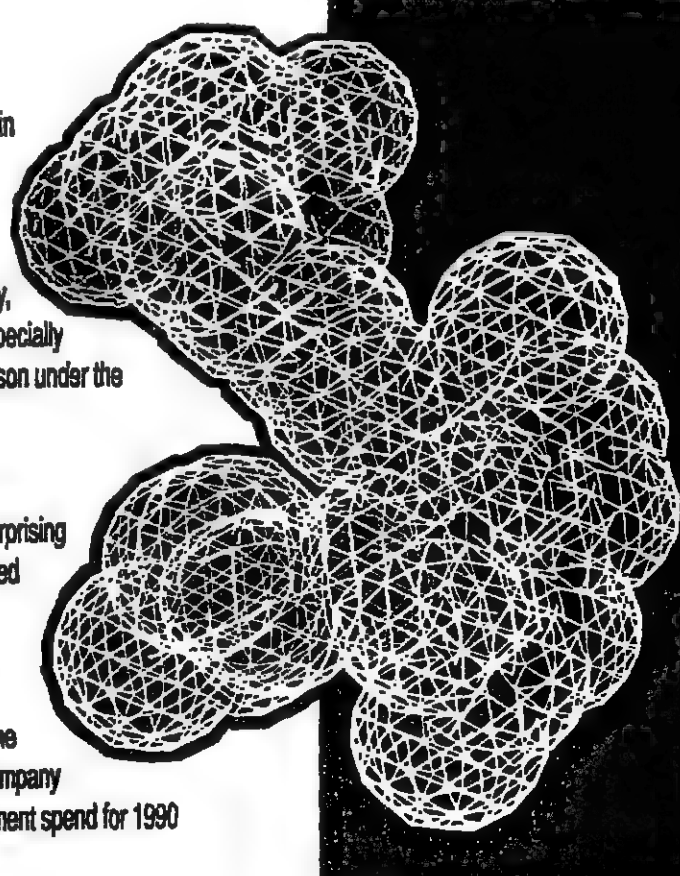
It is well recognised that lifestyle changes can reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. But some factors, such as raised blood pressure, are largely outside the control of the individual. Here, medical help is often necessary, and MSD has a history of innovation in this field. Since the 1950s, MSD has led the world in the development of new antihypertensive agents, improving the treatment and outlook for people with high blood pressure.

And cholesterol

More recently, MSD has pioneered the treatment of raised cholesterol levels, a condition which can cause a build-up of fat in the arteries, leading to coronary heart disease. There is now evidence that reducing elevated cholesterol levels not only helps to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease but may also reverse the process.

The research continues

But, the commitment does not stop there. Building on past successes, MSD is again looking to the future, leading the search to discover new ways to help combat coronary heart disease.



Computer model of a molecule with lipid-lowering properties

'Medicine, like all knowledge, has a past and a future, and... in that past is the indispensable soil out of which improvement must grow.'

Alfred Söke

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RUGBY UNION

Profit claims far from correct

division's operating profit before tax and interest was \$91.1 million on turnover of £2.1 billion, and that these results clearly include turnover and profits amounting to the difference between the operations on the Continent, in the Republic of Ireland and in the United States and from the Verizon Pools business, as well as two greyhound stadiums, the Lad broke Line telephone information service and the division's credit betting business, part of which is run by a company known as Racetracks themselves and as a consequence of sporting events which take place overseas.

By pointing to payments estimated at £113 million by bookmakers to benefit racing in 1989-90, the report at least gives the lie to Mr Spencer's earlier claim that the typically famous accusation that Lad-brokers has built a £2.5 billion business "paying nothing directly to racing for their racing product."

The report might have added, in the interests of presenting a less one-sided picture, that by 1989-90 the total amount of bets placed by bettors on off-track bookmakers in the year 1989-90, the total payment to horseracing amounted to more than £48 million, a figure which includes duty in that year generated in excess of £450 million for the Treasury, approximately three times the total profits before tax of £150 million from all betting on horse racing.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HAROUNOFF,
 Head of Public Affairs,
 Ladbrokes Ltd.,
 10 Cavendish Place, W1.

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE hurdle facing England against Wales at Cardiff on January 19 will be high in the thoughts of the players who leave today for four days in Lanzarote. Not only will their warm-up match be a gruelling one, but also directly on the opening match of the five nations' championship, but also, when at rest, the players will be able to turn their backs on the Welsh, which they hope will produce the first victory at the Arms Park since 1963.

All 30 members of the party have been given cassette tapes and wordy books to assist their mental preparation. The tapes, produced by the National Coaching Foundation, are designed to aid concentration and to help players to relax. They were distributed after the international against Argentina in November and should have been digested by now.

But how can you see how the players have gone on with them? Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said: "It's all part of trying to help them get the mental side as good as is possible. It's not like the Three Lions of the 1980s, in particular, England have gone to Wales with what have appeared, on paper, the better side, only to return beaten. The one exception was in 1982 when they achieved a 13-13 draw."



Cooke: history is bunk

Cooke, however, discounts the history attached to this fixture: "For most of the players it will be only their second visit to Cardiff for some it will be their first. Why should history affect them if they have never been there before?"

Yet the statistic remains, outlasting even the other ledger entry to be erased on January 19 — when Scotland go to Paris seeking their first victory at the Parc des Princes, where they were introduced to the international matches — have been played since 1972.

"Training in Llanzarrol will be more directly focused on the Welsh match," Cooke said.

Last year, we took a broader approach, but we were interested in a very specific targeting on the game in Cardiff. It's so im-

portant to us for what we want to achieve in 1991. Everything we do will be designed to get the players on the field in the best state of readiness, but it will always come down to how they perform on the day."

Cooke will not lack assistance; his fellow selectors, Roger Lifford and John McQuinn, will make the trip alongside Richard Best and Mike Siemen, the England B coaches. The conditioning and medical team of Tom McNab, Rex Hazeldine, Ben Giffender and Kevin Murphy will be present, and the club's own fitness tests and Dr. Rutherford, the RFU technical director, can also provide expen-

The team management will be anxious to check the well-being of the forwards and Paul Ackford, the forwards who were injured during the divisional championship last month. If necessary, they will be excused some of the contact work, but clearly the expectation is that all players will be able to contribute fully before the party returns.

The side to play Wales, and the England B XV to play Spain at Gloucester on January 20, will be announced on Sunday, when the team will be expected to have changed to the senior side that beat Argentina by 51 points. Positions most at issue, I imagine, are hooker, loose-head prop and blind-side flanker.

Cooke is not worried that Will

By DAVID HANDS.

ENGLAND play Wales in the first international fixture on February 10, when the respective women's teams meet at Waterloo. To assist selection, the Welsh have organised two trial matches at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff this weekend. Wales A play the Netherlands and Wales B play Bath on Sunday.

● Nottingham, unimpressed by the decision of London Irish to withdraw from their scheduled fixture this Saturday in favour of squad training, will play Newark at Beeston instead.

Finally, the Irish are to play a friendly league match against Coventry the following

weekend, rather than play their last XV in a match, to repair the ravages of representatives calls and the Christmas holidays. Nottingham are understandably annoyed, but at least have a match against neighbours who they have not played since meeting in the cup in 1983.

Nottingham's first preliminary while opponents for a Nottingham side missing Hodgkinson and Rees (in Lanzarote with England) and Gray, their captain, who is playing in the Scottish trial. They number Roundhay and Northern among opponents and are facing promotion to third division from the Midlands first division.

From Mr John A. Meidrum
Sir, I take issue with Simon
Sturges (December 22) when he
says "forward, although not ac-
tually saying so, the suggestion
that the English football team,
beaten in the World Cup semi-
final in front of 25.4 million
viewers, would have been worthy
winners of the 1990 BBC
sports review team award rather
than the Scottish rugby team,
who defeated England watched
by a mere 3.7 million.

Is this yet again an English
acceptance that to lose in front

of so many is worthy of special recognition? The English footballers had a good World Cup but failed in the objective. The Scots were victorious in an international tournament of special significance with the grand slam being available to the winners of the final game.

Do not be too surprised if the team picking up the award next December for winning the rugby World Cup again wears kilts.

Yours sincerely,
J. A. MELDRUM,
Craigosie,
Trochry, by Dunkeld,
Perthshire.

May I offer to all those involved, politicians and/or entrepreneurs, a tiny extract from the International Council on Sport and Physical Education's "Declaration on Sport" (Unesco, Paris, 1965): "Those who, in any capacity whatsoever, are preoccupied with the future of man and society, must make sure that the necessary measures are taken [to develop sport]."

Yours faithfully,
W. F. GOSS,
Honorary secretary,
Amateur Football Alliance,
155 Islington Park Street, N1.

From Gk. Capt. R.L.S. Coulson
 in, Like thousands of other
 viewers, I was thrilled to witness
 Desert Orchid winning the King
 George VI Chase on Boxing Day
 1966.
 My pleasure was, however,
 somewhat tempered by the sight
 of Richard Drumwoody applying
 the whip over-vigorously during
 the race. The result of
 this was clearly visible in the
 unsmashing enclosure in the
 form of two long weals on
 Desert Orchid's right flank.
 Since runner-up home neither
 merited nor needed this sort of
 treatment.
 Yours faithfully,
 R. L. S. COULSON,
 The Paddock, Brampton Ash,
 Christ Church, Wokingham,
 Berkshire.

From Mr Tim Sledmere
We are living in the age of
the confused sportsman. No
doubter was Nick Faldo pre-
sented to the magnificent
Waterford Crystal Ritz Club
European Golfer of the Year
trophy that he wore the lid as a
hat (December 22).
No doubt the readers may have
collected similar confusion in the
Cup Final at Wembley, where
both lid and base of the cup are
worn as headgear. I wonder if
sports trophy manufacturers
are in the line of the Queen for original
designs, considered a prize in
the shape of a hat or bonnet.
Would we then witness the
recipient drinking from a silver
corkscrew or a crystal bowler?

Yours faithfully,
T. J. SLEDMERE,
226 Turners Hill,
Canterbury
Dorsetshire

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

- RACING 29
- SWIMMING 30
- FOOTBALL 31

THE TIMES

SPORT

Stewart can find no place for negative thinking

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, SYDNEY

THE Ashes will stay in Australia unless England can conjure a victory from the third Test match, which starts here tomorrow. But the need to win is one thing; being equipped to win is another, and England's options for this decisive match fall some way short of the ideal.

Team selection resembles the infuriating Rubik cube: solve one area and another is out of place. In such circumstances, the traditional refuge of the cricket selector lies in negative thinking, the safety pick which might help ensure a draw if victory is impossible. But, as the team manager, Micky Stewart, admitted yesterday: "A draw is no good to us here. No good at all."

The dilemmas are manifold, involving form, fitness and likely pitch conditions. What it comes down to is that in Sydney, of all places in the world, England will want to play two spinners, and to accommodate them, will severely weaken either the batting, the seam bowling or the wicketkeeping, while to cop out, and play only one, would be an admission of inadequacy.

As so often in recent years, the quandary arises through the lack of an all-rounder, someone capable of batting at No. 6 and bowling first change. Chris Lewis might just have been equal to it, but he is back home for treatment, and none of those remaining even approach the category.

It would not be so bad if any aspect of England's game was functioning smoothly. If, for instance, the top five batsmen were all among the runs, the prospect of Russell batting at No. 6 would hardly raise an eyebrow. As it is, not only is there cause for concern over all the batsmen except Gooch, there is also the fact that Russell himself is in a trough with the bat.

Examine the alternatives, and this still seems England's best chance of achieving the right, winning balance. To leave out a seam bowler, going

in with only two plus Gooch, would be an unacceptable risk. To leave out Russell, handing the wicketkeeping gloves to Stewart, would be foolishly counter-productive in the one game where the wicketkeeper will be required to stand up and have his skills tested over a long period.

In their beleaguered state, it is easy to see the selectors being tempted to dispense with Russell and make Stewart an all-rounder, of sorts, at No. 6. He is not a good enough wicketkeeper to justify it and nothing would undermine the confidence of the spinners, and the morale of the team, more readily than a missed catch or a fumbled stumping which might otherwise have been avoided.

Micky Stewart, having said that the inclusion of a second spinner was "almost automatic" in the expected conditions, added: "But the balance of our side must be a major consideration." He did not rule out the possibility that Michael Atherton's leg spin could be employed in support of Phil Tufnell, much in the way that Australia, resisting the urge to recruit additional spin, will rely on Allan Border as back-up to Greg Matthews.

The pitch is the one used for Australia's Sheffield Shield final nine months ago, a game in which Matthews took eight wickets. No one here seems in any doubt that it will turn from early in the game, ensuring that the spinners, who have done most of the bowling here in Tests during the last decade, will dominate again.

Or will they? Much as England are aware of the traditions of the place, and of how horribly they played against spin in Tuesday's floodlit match, the focus of their preparations is still the left-arm seam bowling of Bruce Reid, a topic on which there is a danger of certain players becoming paranoid. Advice is being offered from various quarters, Geoff Boycott urging a change to off-

stump guard and Mike Gatting instructing a more positive movement of the back foot. Gooch, wisely, keeps his own counsel on the subject and, publicly, says only that it is up to each individual to resolve his own method.

The players have studied videos of their nightmares against Reid in Melbourne and the subject was aired again during a lengthy team discussion before practice yesterday. It was also reflected in a detailed personal coaching session for Robin Smith, supervised by his brother, Chris, who is here acting as a travel courier.

With the full approval of Stewart, who also had an input, Chris Smith watched his younger brother bat from the umpire's position, frequently holding up the bowlers to walk down the net and make a technical point. It revealed how deeply concerned Smith must be over his form and to what commendable lengths he is prepared to go to put things right.

There was no sign at practice of various stricken players. Allan Lamb's calf injury is healing slowly and he attempted only to jog a few yards before calling a halt. He has next to no chance of playing.

David Gower is still in discomfort with his wrist injury and unable to throw, but he is expected to play once more with the aid of pain-killing tablets.

Tufnell was twice attended by a doctor overnight for a stomach disorder but he is much likelier to make it than Angus Fraser, whose appearance in Tuesday's limited-overs game begins to seem an unmerited gamble. He finished the match in distress. The jarred area of his right hip is more inflamed than before and he attempted nothing strenuous yesterday.

"We will have to be guided by Angus," the manager said gloomily, aware just what an effect it would have on the side if Fraser felt obliged to withdraw. He was largely responsible for attaining a first-innings lead for England in each of the first two Tests. Without him, an already limited bowling attack will look irreparably threadbare.

LIKELY ENGLAND 12: G. Gooch (captain), M. A. Atherton, W. Laming, R. Smith, S. G. Smith, P. Tufnell, B. B. Fraser, G. Smith, A. C. Fraser, E. E. Hemmings, P. C. H. Tufnell, D. E. Malcolm.

Overseas review, page 30



The right line: a tutorial for Robin Smith, supervised by Stewart and brother Chris

Spin well tested in Sydney

By SIMON WILDS

WHICHEVER way you look at it, the task facing England in the third Test at Sydney, which starts tomorrow, is a formidable one. Not only is the respective form of the sides ominous, England have not bowled out Australia twice in any of their last four Tests in Sydney.

On each of the previous four occasions except the first, in 1979-80 — when a damp pitch meant the game being decided by the seam bowlers — England pursued the traditional practice at the ground of looking to spin to bring them success.

For both the final Test in

1982-3, which England had to win to retain the Ashes, and the 1987-8 Bicentennial match, one of their two spinners was Eddie Hemmings, who will be playing tomorrow. On each occasion, he got through 74 overs, but with only limited success: he claimed six wickets in the first match and three in the second. Three years ago, however, he did contribute to making Australia follow on before Boon (184 not out in 84 hours) secured the draw.

On England's full tour, in 1986-7, their spinners were more successful, but nevertheless outdone as Australia won

by 55 runs. The 12 wickets that Edmonds and Embury took for England came at a greater cost and at an inferior strike rate to the 13 that Peter Taylor, an off spinner playing only his seventh first-class match, and Sleep took for Australia.

England have a good record at Sydney. They have won more matches against Australia there (20, against 23 defeats) than on any other ground in the last 20 years, though their only wins on the ground (two in 1970-1 and two in 1978-9) have been against weaker sides than the one they face now.

Rangers show some mercy to their old rivals

By RODDY FORSYTH

Rangers 2
Celtic 0

A CELTIC supporter, whose allegiance to the club stretches back for many years, was standing close to the press entrance outside Ibrox yesterday and amidst the New Year salutations of his friends he was asked, by an amiable Rangers follower, what he hoped his team would derive from the day's proceedings.

"To get away from here without a doing", was the reply. The Rangers supporter was sympathetic. "Aye, you're in a bad way these days", he said. By the final whistle, Celtic were in a worse way but they had not been rolled over so severely as their long time follower had feared, merely losing by a couple of goals to a team which is almost the length of a division ahead in the championship race.

In fact when the match finished, their 7,000 supporters in the Broomloan Stand marked the moment by singing and cheering their players as though the scores had been reversed. Not every Celtic supporter is the football equivalent of a knight of the Round Table, as was demonstrated when a number of morons thought it proper to jeer during the minute's silence which commemorated the 66 who died in the Ibrox disaster which occurred 20 years to the day previously.

Nevertheless, the extraordinary display of loyalty which was offered at the end of yesterday's proceedings transcended mere defiance, which is often the hallmark of Old Firm partisans forced to endure defeat. It was also seen at MacDiarmid Park two weeks ago, when Celtic were beaten by St Johnstone, but what is it that these supporters

are doing when they unite so impressively behind a losing cause?

Are they closing ranks in the face of a temporary retreat from the good times? Are they saluting an institution which has served them well over the years or are they celebrating themselves and their own heart for battle, the very attribute the team lacks presently?

Whatever their motive may be, by their tangible devotion to the Parkhead cause it is almost certain that they have contributed to their current plight.

Needless to say, yesterday's match was predictable. Punctuated by violent sleet squalls, it was no context for fluent football but even then, Rangers dominated for huge stretches of the contest, to the point where Celtic won their first corner kick with four minutes remaining.

By then they were two goals down, the first coming ten minutes prior to the interval when Mark Walters pitched a corner kick to the near post and saw it deceive Paul McCloy and Pat Bonner to swirl into the net. The second arrived in the final quarter hour when Celtic hesitated, hoping the referee might award them a penalty kick for some barging in the Rangers area.

Spackman did not linger, clearing the ball to the teenager, Robertson, who waltzed around Bonner to offer Hately a simple chance to drive home from six yards. Hately's shot was blocked by Bonner, who was then fouled by Robertson. The referee awarded a free kick to Celtic, which was taken by Robertson, who scored. Attendance boom likely to continue, page 31

Gallagher opts for Great Britain

By KEITH MACKLIN

JOHN Gallagher, the former New Zealand rugby union full back who was rated among the best in the game, has decided that his international future in rugby league is with Great Britain.

Gallagher has been wooed by Bob Bailey, the New Zealand coach, and by Malcolm Reilly, of Great Britain, and has been asked several times in recent weeks to declare his preference. Although he played for the All Blacks, he qualifies for Great Britain through parentage and the fact that his first senior rugby union experience was in England.

Gallagher said yesterday: "The decision seems to have been made for me because I am taking a sports course at Carnegie College in Leeds, and if I went to New Zealand I would be away from my studies too long. My main concern as a professional is getting a settled place in the Leeds team."

"I am still learning the game, and to be considered by Great Britain for their current international side is a tremendous boost in this early stage of my professional career."

Gallagher could come into the reckoning for the Great Britain squad for the international against France at Perpignan on January 27, though he will face severe competition from Steve Hampson, the Wigan full back who played against Australia, and the previous holder of the position, Alan Tait, of Widnes, who has just returned from injury.

Poor relations, page 30

Starting block protest

PERTH — The American team, with the support of most leading nations, has lodged an official protest about the starting blocks at the sixth world swimming championships here (Craig Lord writes).

Competitors claim the blocks could prevent world records being broken by making the use of "grab" and "track" starts a physical impossibility.

Swimmers need a shallow edge at the front of the starting block to be able to use their hands and arms to help propel themselves into a racing dive. The blocks at Perth's Superdome, however, have a flat front six inches deep, leaving no scope to grasp the edge.

Dennis Pursley, the American team director, said: "We have complained because it would be a shame to miss out on world records for the sake of changing the blocks."

Fina, the world governing body, is considering the protest and is expected to deliver its ruling when the championships start today.

Chinese officials have dismissed allegations of drug-taking by their swimmers at the world championships.

Tambay learns an early lesson

From DAVID CHAPPELL, IN GHADAMIS, LIBYA

BEFORE the starter's flag waves Patrick Tambay away from here this morning, ten cars will already be heading down the trail to Ghat, each kicking sand in the Frenchman's face. For someone with a winning track record in Formula One, it will be an unpalatable experience, but one he has brought upon himself.

Tambay's last act of 1990 was to roll his Lada Samara during the prologue to the 1991 Paris to Dakar rally. The seemingly innocuous 3.7-kilometre spin around Clermont-Ferrand serves nominally to establish the starting order for the serious business of the opening stage in the desert. But Sunday's lapse in concentration left him with more than just battered pride and machinery. It allowed Ari Vatanen an immediate 27-

second advantage over Tambay, who is expected to be one of the main rivals to the Finn in his quest for a third successive victory and a winning debut for Citroen. But after the loss of a door in the accident, Tambay revealed a sense of new year resolution.

"It has happened twice to Ari," Tambay said. "And, historically, it has not done him any harm." In 1987 and 1989, Vatanen suffered similar mishaps in the prologue yet went on to win.

"I have not looked to do the best time," Vatanen said. "I only tried to avoid the problems... and the rolls." More than anyone, Vatanen knows the Paris to Dakar is not won on the prologue.

Tambay's excursion apart, the starting order for today's first competitive stage, which takes the drivers 400 miles south, is much as expected, with the Mitsubishi of Kenneth Eriksson and Pierre Lariguet behind Vatanen and Hubert Auriol, heading the Lada challenge.

Dick Partridge, the only British entry, is glad not to have suffered the embarrassment of being the first to withdraw. On his way to the prologue, the gearbox on Partridge's Isuzu failed and road-side repairs were necessary to prevent an early exit. The dubious honour of the first departure fell to Clay Regazzoni, of Switzerland, the former grand prix driver who perhaps deserved better.

Regazzoni's Formula One career came to an end in 1980 when an accident left him partially paralysed. Last year, he was airlifted out of the desert when he crashed and was thrown clear of his vehicle. This time, Regazzoni's specially adapted Mercedes had enough on the way to the prologue.

At least he will have enjoyed being part of the massive interest generated in the event in France: more than 150,000 people viewed the cars during the three days of scrutineering at Rouen and 50,000 turned out in the rain for the prologue. Now the year has turned and there is a change of continent.

Finally, one navigator enjoying his first experience of the rally has a simple approach. "We are taking each stage as it comes," he says. If that sounds like something more associated with English football managers, you will not be surprised to find that the navigator is none other than Michel Hidalgo, the man who took France to the European championship in 1984.

Now he is responsible for directing Thierry Delé-Zoti in a Mitsubishi Pajero. He has been captivated by Le Dakar.

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No one would wish Gascoigne's natural exuberance or his colourful sense of fun to be curtailed, but he must learn to curb his fragile temper. He could have no finer example than his own colleague, Gary Lineker, regarded as the fairest player in the world in Fifa's official view.

Lineker, the victim of equally harsh and occasionally illegitimate punishment, has never reacted in a dozen years. Gascoigne burns on a fuse as short as a malfunctioned finger nail by comparison, but that can scarcely excuse his record of 21 cautions over the last 18 months.

His words and deeds would be of little or no consequence if he were performing for Tottenham's

reserves in a relatively empty arena. Since he is a leading personality and, as Taylor said recently, "an integral part of the England team", he can no longer be seen so regularly to misbehave.

Even if he does regain his place in next month's international against Cameroon, he automatically misses the next round of the Rumbelows Cup, which has been his most productive and convincing platform. He has scored in every tie in which he has appeared, including four goals against Hartlepool United in the second round.

Unless Tottenham win the quarter-final at Chelsea in his absence, their ambitions of collecting a trophy this season will rest solely on the FA Cup. They visit Blackpool in the third round on Saturday. Their

challenge for the title, which began to falter two months ago, is now effectively over.

Unbeaten in their opening ten matches, they had conceded only four goals and kept half-a-dozen clean sheets. Once they lost to Liverpool in another television show, on November 4, their fortunes drastically changed. They have since dropped 19 out of 30 points, yielded 20 goals and slid to sixth place.

Terry Venables, unable to spend money to reinforce a shallow squad, will be without Nayim and Pat van den Hauwe. Sent off against Luton Town ten days ago, they are about to serve a three-match suspension. Gascoigne will be unavailable for the visits to Chelsea and to Derby County on January 19.

Gascoigne fizzles like a bomb ready to explode

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE most surprising aspect of Paul Gascoigne's dismissal on New Year's Day was that it was the first time he had suffered the indignity at Tottenham Hotspur. In spite of his development as a player over the last two years, he is still inclined to act with all the wild impetuosity of an ill-disciplined youth.

He often harangues the referee, albeit not always in "the foul and abusive" terms which provoked Vic Callow to send him off during the televised fixture against Manchester United on Tuesday. He is also liable to launch himself into reckless tackles, as was witnessed by a wider audience last summer.

The recurring pictures of his emotional response to being booked during the World Cup semi-final against West Germany have formed

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one of the lasting memories of the tournament. Viewers may not be able to easily recall the foul he committed so needlessly out on a touchline.

His evident sense of irresponsibility has concerned both the past and present managers of England. Bobby Robson would probably not have selected him in Italy had Bryan Robson and Neil Webb, the established central midfield pair, been fit. Although he respected Gascoigne's talent, he felt that he could not wholly trust him.

Graham Taylor has expressed similar misgivings. Before the European championship qualifying tie against Poland in October, he described Gascoigne as "a time bomb. You hope that he explodes in

their face, not in ours." The following month he was not prepared to take the same risk in Dublin.

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